

Trapped ships are worth \$400m

BAGHDAD (R) — A Lloyd's London underwriter said on Monday 74 ships trapped in the Shatt Al Arab waterway between Iran and Iraq because of the Gulf war had an aggregate insured value of \$400 million. By contrast, G.M. Loveday of Mark Loveday underwriting agencies said, 15 ships trapped in the Suez Canal in 1956 were worth \$30 million. "I have no doubt that the losses in the Shatt Al Arab will go down in the history books of Lloyd's," Mr. Loveday told the first session of an international conference on war risks insurance. Iraqi First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yassin Ramadan said Iran must bear the responsibility for huge losses incurred by some insurance companies due to its insistence on war. He said Iran had blocked all efforts to obtain the release of the ships in the waterway since the Gulf conflict erupted in September 1980.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية «الراي»

Dumas, envoys discuss hostages

PARIS (R) — French External Relations Minister Roland Dumas on Monday summoned three special envoys to discuss efforts to secure the release of French hostages in Lebanon. The three were dispatched urgently to the Middle East after extremists in Beirut announced two weeks ago they had "executed" one of four hostages held for a year. Another four, from a French television network, were seized nine days ago. Mr. Dumas told reporters he would meet French Ambassador to Tunis Eric Rouleau, who according to diplomatic sources left Tehran on Sunday after three days of informal talks with Iranian officials. Mr. Dumas also said he would meet special envoy Serge Boidevaix, who held talks last weekend with Lebanese President Amin Gemayel, and Roving Ambassador Henri Servant, reported to have delivered a message to Syrian President Hafez Al Assad.

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King confers with Rifai

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein on Monday paid a visit to the Prime Minister and conferred with Prime Minister Zaid Rifai.

Prince Mohammad visits security unit

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, the personal representative of His Majesty King Hussein, on Monday visited the security and protection unit at Queen Alia International Airport and listened to a briefing by the unit's commander on the duties and tasks of the unit.

Prince Hassan meets African bank chief

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan received at the Royal Court on Monday Mr. Chadli Iyari, president of the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa. The Crown Prince and Mr. Iyari discussed fields of cooperation between Jordanian institutions and the bank. Mr. Iyari is currently chairing meetings of the bank which began here on Sunday.

Arafat to visit Yugoslavia

BELGRADE (AP) — PLO leader Yasser Arafat will visit Yugoslavia, the state-run Tanjug news agency reported Monday. The chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation is to pay an official and friendly visit, said Tanjug. The dispatch did not give dates. The PLO has full diplomatic status in Yugoslavia.

Ariane launch preparations continue

PARIS (R) — Preparations for Wednesday's launch of a European Ariane-3 rocket with two telecommunications satellites on board continued on scheduled on Monday with all systems reported normal, an Arianeespace spokesman said. The flight comes less than two months after the U.S. shuttle disaster which indefinitely grounded the shuttle programme, leaving Ariane as the only commercial satellite launcher in operation. The launch was due to have taken place on March 12 but was delayed twice.

Spain to deport two Lebanese convicts

MADRID (AP) — Two Lebanese convicted of an attack on a Libyan diplomat could be released from a Spanish prison and returned to Lebanon in two months, the daily El Pais said Monday. Quoting an unnamed high official, the newspaper said the government was looking to see how it could expel Mohammed Rahal, 22, and Mustafa Khalil, 24, under a new alien law. The two were convicted by a Spanish court for the October 1984 attack on a Libyan diplomat and sentenced to 23 years in prison.

INSIDE

- * Swiss ready to play mediator role in Mideast, page 2
- * Prince Hassan highlights contribution of education to development, page 3
- * Fundamentalism growing in secular Egypt, page 4
- * Singapore wrestles with problem of growing old, page 5
- * Cameroon secures birth in African finals, page 6
- * OPEC sets up experts' group to reassess oil market, page 7
- * Reagan says Nicaragua building deep-water port, page 8

Rightists gain thin majority in France

PARIS (Agencies) — French voters have rendered a mixed verdict on five years of socialism, ousting the left from power in the National Assembly but giving the main conservative parties only a slight majority with which to carry out their programme.

Hopes for a massive rightist victory in Sunday's elections were dashed by the unexpectedly powerful showing of the extreme right National Front, which had campaigned hard on anti-immigration and law and order issues, playing on French worries about jobs and crime.

Prime Minister Laurent Fabius offered to resign after the Rightists scraped to the paper-thin victory.

"I am at your disposal to offer you my resignation and that of my government at the moment you judge opportune," the 39-year-old prime minister said in a letter to President Francois Mitterrand.

The letter was released by the presidential palace after a 90-minute meeting between Mr. Mitterrand and Mr. Fabius, who took over as head of government in July 1984.

There was no word on the president's reply, but political analysts noted that former Prime Minister Raymond Barre used the same formula in March 1978 and stayed on in the post for nine more days until a new government was formed.

Mr. Fabius' move appeared designed to give Mr. Mitterrand time

to choose a new prime minister acceptable to the new National Assembly, which is now dominated by the Gaullist RPR, its allies in the centre-right UDF and a handful of independents.

It is the first time in the 28 years of the Fifth Republic that a president has had to work with a hostile parliament, raising the prospect of political instability or stalemate until Mr. Mitterrand's term runs out in 1988.

Attention is now focused on whom the president will choose to head the government and whether the president and new premier will be able to work together.

The main conservative grouping issued a statement saying the new prime minister must be prepared to enact policy changes

laid out during the campaign. "The French have chosen a new majority. They have, therefore, chosen a new politics," said a joint statement by the new Gaullist RPR, the party and the centrist Union for French Democracy (UDF), which ran on a joint platform.

"This new politics can only be applied by a prime minister and government (prepared) to put into action, without compromise or concessions," the objectives of the RPR-UDF platform. It said Mr. Mitterrand's choice for premier should have the approval of the majority.

French commentators said this appeared to be an attempt to block any effort by Mr. Mitterrand to name anyone other than RPR President and Paris Mayor Jacques Chirac, or possibly former President and UDF leader Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, as prime minister. "Since the RPR forms the largest part of the new parliamentary majority, Mr. Chirac would then be the heavy favourite for the post."

(Continued on page 3)

PARIS (R) — Party standings in seats won in Sunday's legislative elections. They cover 575 of the 577 seats elected in metropolitan France and its overseas possessions. The remaining two deputies, representing Saint Pierre et Miquelon and Wallis et Futuna, will be chosen in a run-off next Sunday.

Socialists 196
Communists 35
MRG centre left 7
Other left 10

RPR Gaullist 150
UDF centre right 127
National Front 33
Other right 14
Extreme right 1

Swede charged as accomplice in Palme murder

STOCKHOLM (R) — A Swedish public prosecutor on Monday charged a man arrested last week with being an accomplice in the assassination of Prime Minister Olof Palme, Swedish Radio reported.

The 32-year-old man, described by his lawyers as a Swede with strong right-wing views and a strong sympathy to Mr. Palme, was formally charged at a Stockholm court.

The radio quoted Public Prosecutor K.G. Svensson as saying suspicions had intensified against the man and he would remain in custody while investigations continued.

Further details were expected to be announced at a news conference by Stockholm police chief Hans Holmer.

Mr. Holmer said at the weekend that the suspect could not account for his movements on Feb. 28, the night Mr. Palme was shot dead as he walked home from a city-centre cinema with his wife Lisbet. The man's lawyers said he was innocent.

The man was not named in line with Swedish legal practice. Mr. Holmer said the man had tried unsuccessfully to flag down a car on a street soon after the murder. He then went into a cinema long after the performance started.

"Everything gives the impression that he was running away," the police chief said.

He added that the suspect had on several occasions been known to make threatening remarks about Mr. Palme, Sweden's Social Democratic prime minister for 11 of the last 17 years.

The public prosecutor's statement said a search of the man's home had shown clearly that he was hostile to the slain premier.

"According to one witness, the man made remarks in a telephone call in February to the effect that 'Palme was on the death list' and 'blood would flow on the streets of Stockholm,'" the statement said.

It added that the suspect could not produce an alibi for the evening in question and had changed his story several times.

Syria pledges continued efforts for hostage release

DAMASCUS (R) — Syria on Monday pledged to continue efforts to win the safe release of French hostages in Lebanon, but dismissed French suggestions that it might know their whereabouts.

"Syria, in principle... is against terrorism and abduction of innocent people and will continue to make efforts to free the hostages and secure their safety, within its capabilities," Damascus Radio said.

The radio was responding in a commentary to what it called "intensive talk" about the hostages prior to Sunday's French general elections. It said the link between the hostage issue and the elections was "part of the political game and party competition in France."

It said Syria's name had been abused in the matter "in bad faith, by some people who intended to damage Syria's reputation in French and world public opinion."

"Syria... is against the kidnapping of journalists and diplomats," the radio said. "It maintains that just causes do not require unjust means. Their victory does not necessitate abduction and killing of unarmed people."

The radio said Syria differentiated between terrorism and "national resistance against occupiers and aggression," a reference to the Palestinian struggle against Israel.

"This (Palestinian) resistance is legal and essential, just as was French resistance against Nazi occupation," the commentary said.

It said Syria had helped on several occasions in efforts to free kidnapped people and in the case of the French hostages had "played a positive role, which is well-known to the French president and his government."

"If these efforts have not led yet to the release of hostages who are still alive, this is not because of Syria but of some circumstances of which France is quite aware," the radio said, without explanation. It added:

"Syria will continue to share efforts being made to create circumstances and conditions that would facilitate the hostage freedom process. True... that Syria has moral influence in Lebanon and presence in some Lebanese areas, but it does not exist in every Lebanese town, village or farm."

"Its presence in Lebanon is not equal and cannot be compared with the French presence in France. If the French authorities have failed in their hunt for wanted French terrorists in France, it is unfair to suggest that Syria is able to discover the French hostages' location in Lebanon."

He warned earlier that "lawlessness and insecurity" threatened to "destroy us as a nation" and accused militias of looting Lebanon's ravaged economy (See page 7).

A rightist-controlled Beirut radio station says a car bomb exploded near a complex occupied by Soviet advisers in Damascus last week, killing or wounding about 100 people.

There was no independent confirmation of the report by the Voice of Lebanon radio.

It is influenced by the right-wing Falange Party of President Amn Gemayel, who is at odds with Syria.

Syria accused Iraq of being responsible for the blast in Damascus, wounding a number of Syrian nationals, Syrian Television said.

It said the incident was carried out by a Lebanese-born "Iraqi agent" named as Ahmad Hussein 'Eid.

The television showed a video of a demolished car and eight wounded Syrians.

Sir John Glubb 'Pasha' dies at 88

MANFIELD, England (Agencies) — Sir John Bagot Glubb, former commander of the Arab Legion, died at his home in southern England on Monday, his family said. He was 88.

His Majesty King Hussein sent a cable of condolences to the Glubb family, expressing grief at the death of Sir John.

In his cable, King Hussein said Sir John was a prominent military leader "who spent a significant part of his military life in Jordan and contributed to the foundation of the Jordanian Arab Army."

As commander of the Arab Legion, the predecessor to the Jordanian Armed Forces, Sir John built up one of the strongest forces in the Middle East and earned the title "Pasha" — a mark of high respect conferred on him by His Majesty King Abdullah Ibn Hussein, grandfather of King Hussein.

A colourful figure, Sir John was famous for his sense of style and the bright Arab headresses he used to wear. He spoke fluent Arabic and was an expert in Middle East culture.

In 1956 he was relieved of duties as Arab Legion Commander. He returned to England, withdrew from public life and devoted much of his time to writing and lecturing on Jordan and the Palestinians.



Sir John Glubb

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He had been ill for some time before he died, the family said. A statement issued by the Jordanian embassy in London said the news of Sir John's death was received with "great sadness and sorrow."

"Glubb Pasha was a soldier of the highest calibre and a military man of great efficiency," the statement said. "He was held in great regard and high esteem among his fellow Jordanian soldiers and was greatly admired by the Jordanian leadership."

"His contribution in organising the Jordanian armed forces for the duration of his long service cannot be forgotten."

Born on April 16, 1897 at Preston in northwest England, John Bagot Glubb was the son of a soldier. He went to the Royal Military Academy at Woolwich and won a military cross for bravery during World War I.

Two years later in 1920 he volunteered for service in Iraq and it

was during this period he formed his lasting attachment for bedouin, learning Arabic and their customs.

In 1926, he resigned his commission to become a government official and was credited with helping to bring about peace between Iraq and Saudi Arabia.

He was asked in 1930 to work in the British mandated territory of Transjordan. Made second in command of the Arab Legion, he organised special desert patrols.

Taking command of the Arab Legion in 1939, he led it through the war years, crushing a German-inspired revolt in Iraq and fighting the vichy French in Syria.

Britain pulled out of Palestine in 1948 and Sir John then left the British army and was under contract to Jordan.

He married Muriel Forbes in 1938 and had one son. They also adopted a bedouin boy and two girls while in Jordan.

Iraq reports raid near Ahvaz; Iranian-chartered ship hit

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — Iraq on Monday reported its second air raid in 24 hours on military concentrations near the western Iranian city of Ahvaz, and said its warplanes had hit a large vessel off Iran in the Gulf.

A military spokesman also said a series of night air raids were launched on Iranian positions on the Gulf war front.

He said 183 army vehicles and other material were destroyed in a raid at 9:40 a.m. (0640 GMT) on Monday on positions south of Ahvaz, about 80 kilometres from the Iraqi border.

Iraq said on Sunday its planes destroyed some 500 armoured vehicles, including tanks, in a similar attack near Ahvaz. Ahvaz, 560 kilometres southwest of Tehran, is a major Iranian industrial complex and military base.

Gulf-based marine salvage executives said an Iranian-chartered Cypriot tanker was set ablaze by an Iraqi missile on Sunday.

The executives said two salvage tugboats were racing to the rescue of the tanker which was stuck about 130 kilometres south of the Iranian Kharg Island oil terminal. The executives identified the tanker as the Cypriot-registered

262,208-ton Cypriot Achilleon. They said it was part of the fleet which Iran has commissioned to ferry crude oil from the Kharg terminal in the northern Persian Gulf to the Gulf warfront to a makeshift terminal off range for the Iraqi warplanes.

The ship was operated by the Piraeus-based Troodos Shipping Company, according to the executives.

It was the first confirmed strike on Gulf shipping attributed to Iraq this month. Its last confirmed attack was on Feb. 28 when it hit the Hong Kong tanker Energy Courage as it headed to Kharg.

It was the 10th ship confirmed hit in less than a month in the waterway by both sides in the 5½-year-old Gulf war.

Iranian Prime Minister Hussein Musavi has called on the United Nations to take action against Iraq for using chemical weapons in the Iran-Iraq war, it was reported Monday by Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA).

Mr. Musavi said last week's report by U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar confirming that Iraq had used such weapons was "a realistic step," added the agency.

IRNA did not specify what action Mr. Musavi was calling for. Iraqi President Saddam Hussein said on Sunday the Fao Peninsula would become a huge tomb for its Iranian invaders.

Addressing para-military popular army volunteers at a Baghdad training camp, President Hussein said: "Fao will be a huge tomb for the Iranian invaders and we will not close its door until all the Iranians are swallowed or kicked off our sacred land."

"Iranian forces invaded the Fao Peninsula, at the head of the Gulf, at the start of a new offensive on Feb. 9 and still hold the old oil port of Fao and surrounding areas despite five weeks of Iraqi counterattacks."

President Hussein told the volunteers: "We are in no hurry (to push the Iranians out of Fao) as long as we are filling the tomb with Iranian every day..."

A war correspondent said Iraqi forces in the peninsula on Sunday repelled four Iranian attempts to approach Iraqi forward positions and hundreds of Iranians were killed or wounded.

Iraqi oil terminals turned into war observation posts, page 2

Israel seeks aid for W. Bank 'development'

TEL AVIV (AP) — A senior Israeli official has left for the United States to recruit funds from voluntary organisations for "development projects" in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, a spokesman said Monday.

Shmuel Goren, the Israeli coordinator for the occupied territories, left for the two week fund-raising tour on Sunday and was expected to visit New York and Washington to solicit funds from refugee aid organisations and other groups, a spokesman said.

The spokesman would only name one such organisation, American Near East Refugee Aid (ANERA).

At the urging of Secretary of State George Shultz, Prime Minister Shimon Peres' government pledged to "develop the economic infrastructure" of the occupied territories and to give the 1.4 mil-

lion Palestinian inhabitants more control over their municipal and economic affairs.

Peres told an international conference of jurists that Israel could not extend its law to the occupied territories because that would be tantamount to annexation.

Speaking in occupied Jerusalem, Peres said that despite the absence of "constitutional law" in the West Bank and Gaza "legislation must come as a result of the political process" in negotiations between Israel and the Arabs.

He said Israel is obligated by its 1979 agreement with Egypt not to extend Israeli law to the West Bank and Gaza.

Peres' ruling coalition in parliament foiled a bill to annex the territories on March 5. But right-wing politicians have pledged to fight for annexation.

Angolan rebels release 170 foreign captives

LISBON (AP) — Angola's UNITA rebels have released more than 170 foreign hostages, who are in neighbouring Zaire awaiting repatriation by the Red Cross, news reports said Monday.

A UNITA leader said the captives included about 100 Filipinos, four Britons, two West Germans, a Canadian, a Romanian and about 70 Portuguese. He said they were all in good condition.

The Portuguese ambassador to Zaire said the captives were expected to be flown to the capital, Kinshasa, by Thursday or Friday and from there to their own countries, according to the Portuguese news agency ANOP.

UNITA seized the hostages March 1 when the guerrillas sto-

red the diamond-mining town of Andara, close to Angola's northern border with Zaire. Sixty government soldiers and 15 rebels were reported killed in the three-hour battle for the town.

A high-ranking UNITA official told the Associated Press the rebels had sought the cooperation of the International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) in freeing the hostages in Zaire to save them a gruelling 1,280 kilometre trek to guerrilla strongholds in southeastern Angola.

The guerrilla leader, who spoke on condition of anonymity, confirmed it was highly probable the captives were already in Zaire, but he said he did not yet have official confirmation.

Pope to visit Rome synagogue

VATICAN CITY (R) — Pope John Paul will visit the Rome synagogue next month in what Vatican sources said would be a major landmark in Catholic-Jewish relations.

Chief Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls said the Pope would visit the synagogue in central Rome on the afternoon of April 13.

Navarro-Valls said it would be the first time in living memory that a Pope had visited a synagogue but he could not say whether it would be the first time in history.

Informed Vatican sources said the visit to the Jewish community did not mark a change in the Vatican's position towards Israel.

The Vatican, which supports Israel's right to exist, has said it would like to see changes in the Middle East situation before it could establish diplomatic relations with the Jewish state.

Catholic-Jewish relations have improved enormously in the 20 years since a major second Vatican council document urged dialogue with the Jews and strongly repudiated the idea of collective Jewish guilt for the death of Jesus Christ.

The Pope has met Jewish leaders many times at the Vatican and on his trips abroad.

SOON
Rocky
Restaurant
in Mecca St.

Crown Prince meets with Jordanian medical team recently back from Sudan

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Monday conferred with a Jordanian medical team which had visited Sudan to offer medical services to the victims of drought and famine in that country. Prince Hassan voiced his deep appreciation to the team for their efforts and for their help to their brothers in fulfilment of a national duty.

The mission was the second to be sent to Sudan where Jordan has established medical centre and a hospital at Kass. Jordanian teams of doctors and nurses are undertaking the task of providing medical services to the local population and they have also been organising the distribution of contributions donated by the Jordanian public.

A Jordanian team has also been entrusted with preparing an integrated project for reconstructing the city of Kass and has drawn up plans for laying water and electricity networks. Engineers in the team have already started drilling artesian wells and building sanitary units and an agricultural school as part of the programme.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Monday meets with participants in the Association of Arab Universities conference which was opened by Prince Hassan Sunday (Petra photo)

Prince Hassan receives participants in Arab universities' conference

AAU continues deliberations on education policies

By Sa'ad G. Hattar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Monday stressed the need to reconsider curricular priorities, particularly in certain scientific fields, in order to promote and encourage the academic movement and education in the Arab World.

The Crown Prince, addressing participants who are attending the 19th session of the Association of Arab Universities (AAU) which opened its meetings here Sunday, reiterated a call for full-scale cooperation among Arab universities with a view to securing optimum benefits in education.

Better standards for post-graduates should also be achieved so that they can contribute to pan-Arab scientific and educational development, the Crown Prince told the audience during a reception at the Royal Court.

He called on participants to face the challenges confronting pan-Arab moves towards achieving food security and boosting the level of science, technology and mainly all fields of research.

The AAU Monday continued its meetings under the chairmanship of Yarmouk University President Adnan Badran with a 31-article agenda containing issues related to the educational status in the Arab World and best means to enhance the education.

Deliberations during Monday's meetings tackled the status of the AAU and participants introduced certain amendments to articles. Another memo on the convening of a general conference, to be held in Sana'a, North Yemen, in 1988, was also discussed and ratified.

The conference will cover university education in the Arab World until the year 2000.

In an interview with the Jordan Times the president of a university in the occupied West Bank spoke

about the deteriorating educational situation in the occupied territories due to Israeli intervention in the internal affairs of education institutions.

The five universities on the West Bank and the one in the Gaza Strip are facing accumulated financial crisis and educational impediments," one president, who requested anonymity, said. The Israeli authorities hinder any moves to introduce new facilities in existing universities nor they approve construction of new buildings, the president told the Jordan Times. He said that the number of enrolled students in any university is also restricted.

The Israelis also have check points for students and teachers on the way to universities, regularly call teachers for questioning and impose house arrest and administrative detention, he continued. Teachers have to face the threat of not having their work permits renewed by the Israeli authorities, he added.

The six universities in the occupied West Bank accommodate 12,000 students, that is approximately 80 per cent of the total number of students at Yarmouk University. Fees are JD 700 to 800 annually but the cost of tuition is mostly covered through scholarships. The universities have graduated a total of 10,000 students but prospects for them to find jobs are diminishing, the president said.

He continued that best means to improve university education is by initiating close coordination among university managements in order to avoid duplicating specialisations.

President of Jerusalem University Sa'ad Eddin Al Alami said the universities in the occupied territories are not subsidised by the government as is the case in other Arab universities. The AAU and Arab governments have been requested to give more support to the universities in the occupied territories.

Land transport union to hold general assembly in Cairo

AMMAN (Petra) — The Arab Land Transport Union (ALTU) will open its seventh general assembly meeting in Cairo on Sunday to discuss activities and plans for the current year and to endorse the union's final accounts for 1985. According to Mr. Abdullah Dumur, ALTU's secretary general, the assembly will also discuss enlarging the membership of union, reducing the membership fees and endorsing unified specifications and standards for Arab transport vehicles used by member countries of the union.

Among the other topics on the agenda is a study prepared by the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) on the cost of transporting goods from Aqaba to Amman and Baghdad and statistical data on land transport in the Arab World.

Mr. Dumur went on to say that the union will examine a working plan which includes, among other things, holding two training courses run by the ALTU.

More facilities needed as number of old people expected to double by 2000

This is the first of a two-part article on old people in Jordan, their needs and the services provided for them.

By Najwa Najjar
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Ministry of Labour and Social Development expects the number of senior citizens in Jordan to double by the year 2000. Presently there are some services available for the elderly, but the forecast increase means that many more facilities will be needed in the future.

Mr. Ribhi Qutsum, assistant director of the Social Defence Department at the Ministry of Labour and Social Development, said that senior citizens (60 years and above) constitute 3.4 per cent of the population. In 1985 it was estimated that there was one senior citizen in every five families, making 53,000 elderly individuals in Jordan, said Mr. Qutsum.

The number of senior citizens has increased in the past twenty years due to the improvement in living and health conditions. This is especially true for the past six years. According to Mr. Qutsum in just one year, from 1984 to 1985, the number of senior citizens increased by 5,000. "Prior to the 1960's, the elderly did not compose a significant segment of society," he said, "and therefore were not considered targets for any projects." He noted that at that time there was only one home for senior citizens.

Dr. Awad Sa'ad, a clinical psychiatrist, explained that in the past families could easily cater to the needs of the older family members, because of the "extended family" concept. Since each family has seven or eight children who lived in the same area as the rest of the family, they could all share the burden of caring for the older family members, he said. Because of this arrangement, society did not feel the need to provide for the elderly.

Widening family ties

However, as industrial and social development took place, Dr. Sa'ad said that family members began migrating to cities or even leaving the country in search of work. This often meant that one child was left to support his elderly parents and it is difficult for one child to support a family, said Dr. Sa'ad.

He continued that advanced facilities for senior citizens can be found in the industrial world since they have passed through this form of development. Jordanian society, on the other hand, is unprepared for the increasing number



Old people need special medical care due to failing eyesight, hearing and physical problems associated with old age (J.T. file photo)

of senior citizens and consequently the appropriate facilities are not available or very limited. "I think the need for these facilities will become increasingly felt as we become more developed, so we should think and plan carefully for the future," said Dr. Sa'ad.

The Ministry of Labour and Social Development has estimated that the majority of the elderly are in need of extra family care and it is expected that many more senior citizens will be requiring support in the future. "Old people will need extra help in the coming 20 years as relationships with their kin weaken," said Mr. Qutsum.

Voluntary institutions

Presently there are three types of services offered to the elderly: institutions, the host/family project and direct aid. There are three institutions set up by voluntary organisations in the whole of Jordan. The Princess Muna Centre for Old People located in Zarqa is for females only. Women constitute one third of the 120 individuals presently residing in homes, said Mr. Qutsum. The remaining two thirds are males and they are housed in the White Bed Home in Juweidi and the Home of Peace in Tla Al Ali.

Until the senior citizen is placed in an institution, the Ministry of Labour and Social Development has temporary lodgings for the elderly. At the ministry's special centre, the elderly are categorised into age, sex and social background before they are sent to an institution.

"To place a relative in one of these homes requires more than just wanting to," said Mr. Qutsum. Explaining the process, he said that relatives must apply at the social welfare office and a social worker visits the family and makes recommendations. The centre for the elderly at the ministry follows up the study and decides whether the family can look after the old person or not. According to the law, inheritors must maintain their relatives. Only if the elderly has no relatives and no financial means, or if they are physically unable to care for themselves, or if their relatives cannot support them, is the request to put them in an institution accepted. A senior citizen can apply in person at the welfare office if he or she wants to live in one of the homes.

Ministry programmes

In addition to voluntary organisation institutions, the Ministry of Labour and Social Development offers two alternative programmes. The first is the host/family project under which financial support is given to individuals who wish to care for the elderly. Funds are from donations and voluntary organisations and the family's monthly allowance is JD 40. At the moment 40 senior citizens are involved in this programme.

The second programme is direct aid to married couples over the age of 60, with no children, relatives or assets. Under this scheme, 4,000 couples receive JD 15 a month from the Ministry of Labour and Social Development and Mr. Qutsum said that this sum will rise to JD 30 at the beginning of April or May.

The Ministry prefers to promote the host/family project or give the elderly couples aid rather than placing senior citizens in homes. Institutions are left as a last resort because, according to Mr. Qutsum, "in our society, institutionalisation is not favourable or appropriate because we are used to the family environment which is not present in institutions, no matter how pleasant they are."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Prince Mohammad condoles Masri family

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, the personal representative of His Majesty King Hussein Monday, called at the residence of Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri to convey his condolences on the death of Nablus mayor Zafar Al Masri.

Jordan, Egypt discuss meat company

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Agriculture Ahmad Dakqan Monday discussed with Egyptian Ambassador in Amman Thab Wahbe and a visiting Egyptian agricultural delegation the establishment of a joint company for the production of red meat. The minister reviewed the government policy on the production of meat by making use of the available capabilities in the eastern and southern regions. He also praised the existing cooperation between the two countries in the fields of joint projects. Mr. Wahbe also praised the cooperation between Jordan and Egypt. The meeting was followed by a meeting of the Jordanian-Egyptian joint company during which the two sides discussed issues related to the establishment of the company and its importance in meeting the two countries' needs of red meat.

Envoys visit UNRWA installations

AMMAN (J.T.) — The ambassadors of Belgium and India Guido Vansina and Gurcharan Singh Monday paid visits to some United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) installations in Marka (Hittin) camp, as well as to Jebel Zuhour Elementary Girls' School, the supply and transport compound on Madaba Road and the Amman Training Centre, according to a UNRWA press release. During the tour, Deputy Director of UNRWA Affairs and Field Administration Officer Bernard Mills briefed the visitors about the agency's services in Jordan.

Department publishes book on Jerash

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Department of Antiquities has recently published volume I of the Jerash Archaeological Projects. This illustrated volume which contains reports by members of an international team working in Jerash since 1981 was edited by Dr. Fawzi Zayadin, the assistant director general of the Department of Antiquities. In his introduction, Dr. Zayadin reviews the archaeological work carried out by the department since 1928 with special reference to the recent excavations. This volume will be followed by volume II in 1987. The Jerash Archaeological Projects are available at the department's registration centre for the price of JD 10.

DLDNA prepares for book week

AMMAN (Petra) — The Department of Libraries, Documentation and National Archives is preparing celebrations for national book week due to be held early in April. Jordan's celebration of national book week comes in conjunction with the United Nations, Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) celebrations of the international year of the book. DLDNA has called on all writers and institutions to contribute towards making the cultural event a success.

Mafrag to hold elections for municipal council on April 10

MAFRAQ (Petra) — Municipal elections in Mafrag will be held on April 10 and for the first time women will be voting to choose a new nine-member council.

According to Khalaf Mahasneh, the deputy governor of Mafrag, a committee has been at work registering voters. The total number

of voters in the district is 9461, approximately half of whom are women. Mr. Mahasneh said that Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Marwan Hmoud had earlier fixed the first three days of April as the period for nominating candidates running for the elections.

French rightists gain majority

(Continued from page 1)

The RPR won 150 seats, and the UDF won 127. With the 44 seats won by allied minor parties, the right won 291 seats — two more than needed to control the 577-seat assembly. The National Front took 33 seats and an independent extreme rightist, one.

The biggest surprise came from the National Front which enters the legislature for the first time. Its leader, former paratrooper officer Jean-Marie Le Pen, offered his support to the RPR and UDF to broaden their majority. But the traditional right has always rejected cooperation with Mr. Le Pen.

Though the Socialists lost their hold on the legislature, the victory of the right proved much slimmer than its leaders had expected. The right is expected to gain two more seats in France's overseas possessions — one each in the tiny territories of Saint Pierre et Miquelon, off the coast of Canada, and Wallis et Futuna, in the Pacific. Run-offs are due in both next Sunday.

The RPR/UDF coalition had predicted that it would gain an absolute majority without the independents, and their relatively poor showing further complicated

the political map. The Socialists, with 198 seats, remain the largest single party in the legislature, and commentators say the right's failure to produce a crushing victory gives Mr. Mitterrand more freedom to manoeuvre in his choice of prime minister.

Before the election, Mr. Chirac had been the most widely tipped candidate for prime minister. Mr. Chirac has promised to undo much of the Socialist's legislation if chosen, particularly to denationalise banks.

The Communist Party emerged as the main loser in the elections and responded with a pledge to pursue the hard line policies critics say have pushed it into a decade of steady decline. Official figures showed the Communists, who until the 1970s could confidently count on at least a fifth of the vote in any French electoral contest, had dropped to just under 10 per cent in Sunday's poll.

The dismal result, promptly blamed by the party on "blackmail" of its supporters by the Socialists in whose outgoing government it participated from 1981-84, will give the Communists only 35 seats in the new National Assembly.

Council reviews Arab commercial exchange plan

AMMAN (Petra) — The joint committee of the Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) and the Arab Industrial Development Organisation (AIDO) has concluded its two-day meetings with a call for drawing up a unified framework for regional and sectoral studies with the involvement of all Arab institutions.

In a memorandum presented to the joint committee, the CAEU general secretariat pointed out the importance of AIDO's participation in the meetings of the integrated commercial exchange programme and the role of the transport sector in developing Arab commercial exchange through a proper and well-developed transport and communications network.

The committee also stressed the necessity for cooperation in the field of joint Arab industrial projects and in the integrated commercial exchange programme and the Arab coordination and cooperation programme.

Meanwhile, a two-day meeting of AIDO's technical committee started in Amman on Monday to follow up on the implementation of resolutions and recommendations issued by the 6th AIDO conference which was held in Damascus in October 1985. The committee discusses the progress achieved in the field of technical and economic studies for joint Arab projects and preparations for the conference to be held in Tunis in 1987.

Taking part in the committee's meeting are representatives of Iraq, Syria, Tunisia, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain and Jordan. The technical committee's meeting will be followed by a ministerial meeting at the level of industry ministries.

Joint Jordanian-Syrian committee meets today

AMMAN (J.T.) — A joint Jordanian-Syrian committee will start a meeting in Amman on Thursday to discuss solutions for problems impeding the exchange of national goods between the two countries, according to an official announcement issued in Amman on Monday.

The announcement said that the joint committee will also study means of facilitating money transfers and bank remittances between the two sides and other issues pertaining to the settlement of outstanding payments and the establishment of Syrian and Jordanian trade centres in Amman and Damascus.

Ministry takes steps to deter harassment by telephone

AMMAN (J.T.) — In a drive to put an end to harassing telephone calls, the Ministry of Communications Monday issued deterrent measures under which harassers' telephone lines, once detected, will be permanently disconnected even if the person connected is willing to pay for new telephone instalment fees and even if they guarantee to stop harassing people over the phone. Any subscriber has the right to request the telecommunications Corporation (TCC) to have his telephone line monitored if the subscriber is getting annoying, impolite or harassing telephone calls.

Previously, people who made harassing telephone calls were traced through the TCC's telephone detecting devices and the corporation would disconnect the harasser's telephone and would reconnect it if the person paid

the JD 125 instalment fee and JD 5 for reconnection. Under the new regulations, which will be in effect as of Monday, the TCC has the right to withhold telephone lines which have been disconnected due to harassment or to reissue the disconnected telephone line.

Minister of Communications Muhiyeddine Al Hussein, who announced the ministry's deterrent measures, said that the phenomenon of telephone harassment in Jordan has "reached a never-wrecking, dangerous and unbearable level" and the only way to halt these actions is through such strict measures.

Mr. Hussein, who is also chairman of the TCC board of directors, expressed hope that telephone subscribers would make use of the new measures in order to stop telephone lines being used as a means for some people to make a nuisance of themselves.

Children's theatre with political implications

By Sana Atiyeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — "The Witness," a short and farcical play, tells the political story of the Middle East problem through a tale presented by a group of talented children. Two girls find a scare-crow, one of them draws a face on it and it starts recounting the story of what happened to that land long ago, as the children act out the comical tragedy.

"The Witness" done by students from the Orthodox and Amman National schools, opened on Saturday evening at the Royal Cultural Centre's studio theatre. The play is written by Mr. Jamil Awad and directed by his wife, Mrs. Juliette Awad, and will perform until March 21, 1986.

The scare-crow talks about the locusts who attacked the land and how the villagers reacted. The locusts were first seen by a poor farmer who warned the villagers about the impending attack; they did not heed him until they saw the locusts for themselves. As the first step of solving the problem, the people meet and start making speeches but there is no agreement and no solution.

In the meantime, the poor farmer tries to fight the invaders on his own and he tells the rest of the villagers to be realistic and to unite to fight the locusts. One village leader invites a foreign expert for lunch to discuss the problem,

while the farmer tries to figure out how a foreigner could possibly help them and of course the foreigner eventually does not help.

Then the villagers begin to leave the land in secret, but the farmer finds them and explains how he went to other villages to seek help. One neighbouring village was in conflict, another did not have enough spray to give away and the third gave him a spraying machine which did not work. The villagers suddenly and finally realise the severity of the problem and unite. They decide to fight the locusts themselves with whatever they may find, but it is too late.

The political implications in "The Witness," are particularly easy for children to understand. A member of the audience called it an educational play about the basic Palestinian problem and he added that the way it was presented made it easy for children to understand the situation. On the other hand, another person called the play as "misleading and dangerous."

"Children cannot grasp what is so called a caricature of the political situation, since it was mostly presented as so; it could be a caricature," he said. "Also, the final speech to the audience, in my opinion, was unnecessary. If this is to be an educational play for children, the last speech was too aggressive and scolding, and this confuses the young audience," the member of the audience said.

Views from the audience

However, the theatre was com-

pletely full of children and adults of all ages on Saturday evening and the audience's reaction was very positive. Very small children laughed at the comical scenes such as when one villager was snoring while one of the leaders gave a speech.

Another member of the audience commented: "The Witness is performed in a way that can be enjoyed and understood by children and adults. Because it is a short one-act play, the events and situations had to change quickly. Otherwise, this play could take many hours if it were to be in detail. Audiences, especially children, like short plays and would get bored if it was too long. But this is a nice short play that gives a comical and brief history of the Middle East situation. I'm satisfied with that."

Educational theatre

Mr. Awad, who wrote "The Witness" says: "In children's theatre you can make the children understand a situation through symbolism instead of giving, for example, historical lectures. They are probably more interested in watching a play than sitting in class. They will grasp and remember an idea or lesson from the stage more than remembering it from lectures."

Mrs. Awad told the Jordan Times that she enjoys working with children in theatre because she feels that children's theatre is a very important aspect of theatre as a whole. "Educationally speaking, working with children in theatre can introduce them to their own personalities, mental abilities, talents, body action, articulation, and we as professionals can help them strengthen these aspects," she said.

Mrs. Awad adds that there should be a movement for children's theatre in Jordan. She believes that there should be support from the Ministry of Culture and Arts, the Ministry of Education, schools, television, and private sectors. For the Awads this is very important because theatre can make children see and understand the reality around them.



A family without crops — scene from "The Witness"

Fundamentalism growing in secular Egypt

By Robert H. Reid
The Associated Press

ASSIUT, Egypt — More than 100 university students listened attentively as a hospital director lectured on how science "proves" the Holy Koran was dictated by God. Bearded young men and fully veiled women applauded as he told them the Muslim holy book contains information about embryology and the human brain which the Prophet Mohammed, the 7th century founder of Islam, could have only learned from God.

The recent lecture here stemmed from a growing interest in Muslim fundamentalism in Egyptian society. Islamic militants hope the revival will one day lead the Western-oriented government of President Hosni Mubarak to impose strict Islamic law.

They are trying to win the support of Egypt's future leaders, doctors, teachers, lawyers and engineers — by promoting Islam

among students here and elsewhere.

The lecture was sponsored by the Islamic Student Association, which won control of the Assiut University student government last year despite the opposition of local authorities.

The fundamentalists' goal is a society based on Islamic principles, hostile to Israel, free of what they consider cultural and political domination by the United States or the Soviet Union.

"We differ from the Egyptian government in this idea," said medical student Osama Rushdy, a leader of the association.

"They want to separate government and religion. But we want to put the Islamic religion in all aspects of life and pressure the government to put it in. We want to regain our land, which is Palestine, and govern it under Islamic principles."

It is difficult to gauge the extent of support for Islamic law, or

"Sharia," within the Muslim community, which makes up 90 per cent of Egypt's 49 million people. The rest of the population is mostly Coptic orthodox Christians.

"Most of the Muslims themselves oppose the extremists," said a Christian priest, who spoke on condition he not be named.

"You see, most of the opposition has come from Muslims themselves. Christians have not spoken out because our numbers are too small."

Although support for extremists may be limited, interest in Islam has been growing over the past decade. Some young women are shunning Western dress for full Islamic veil. Crowds overflow mosques in Cairo, Alexandria and other cities during Friday prayers.

George Couragenis, a Cairo librarian, said the number of Islamic publishing houses has mushroomed so rapidly he cannot keep track of their numbers.

The vigour with which Muslim extremists are trying to promote a religious revival can be seen in this city of some 250,000, located 380 kilometres south of Cairo.

Posters at the train station advertise weekly lectures on Islam at a local mosque. The posters feature a Koran and crossed swords, symbol of the banned Muslim Brotherhood.

University and government officials in Assiut tolerate the student association. But they have stopped it from sponsoring lectures by militant preachers such as Omar Abdul Rahman, who was twice acquitted of involvement in the 1981 assassination of President Anwar Sadat.

Egyptian authorities have been confounded for decades by how to respond to Islamic extremism in a country where most people consider themselves devout Muslims.

After overthrowing the monarchy in 1952, the new government freed jailed members of

the Muslim Brotherhood. It also imprisoned former Prime Minister Ibrahim Abdel Hady for cracking down on the Brotherhood and allegedly ordering the assassination of its founder, Hassan Al Banna, in the 1940s.

But the Brotherhood was suppressed again two years later when one of its members tried to assassinate then-Prime Minister Gamal Abdel Nasser.

Sadat tried to make peace with the fundamentalists. He freed a number of jailed Muslim activists and made overtures to the Islamic community.

He frequently attended prayer services to promote his image as a devout Muslim. At the same time, he stressed his commitment to secular government.

He also amended the constitution to make Islam the basis for Egyptian law. Harsher aspects of the Muslim code, such as limb amputations for thieves and a ban on alcohol, were never imposed,

however. Detente was brief. In September 1981, clashes broke out between Muslims and Christians in Cairo; opposition by fundamentalist sheiks to peace with Israel mounted. Sadat ordered the arrest of some 1,500 of his religious and secular opponents.

A month later, Sadat was assassinated by Islamic fundamentalists. Like Sadat, Mubarak has tried to simultaneously show respect for the Muslim faith, isolate fundamentalism and maintain a secular government.

Parliament, which is controlled by his party but which includes several Brotherhood members, has rejected immediate implementation of Islamic law.

Instead, committees were formed to study ways of incorporating Islam into the legal code, a move extremists believe is a stalling tactic.

Assessment time

WE WOULD like to add our voice to those who share the thoughts of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Yarmouk University President Adnan Badran on the quality and direction of higher education in the Arab World, delivered before the meeting here this week of the Association of Arab Universities. While the Arab World as a whole can take pride in the expansion of higher education during the past two decades, it is time now to reassess the quality of the tens of thousands of students who graduate with university degrees every year, and the full potential of the thousands of professors who make up the teaching faculties.

We sometimes have the impression that our universities are producing a growing stream of graduates without always having a clear idea of the basic purpose of higher education, or of the linkages that should exist between academia and the world of industry, agriculture and applied research. It would be a useful exercise to calculate how much money Arab governments and private sector firms have spent on hiring foreign consultants to carry out studies that could often be done by qualified Arab experts in our universities. It would also be useful to determine why Arab universities have not developed the kinds of semi-independent research institutions and think-tanks that are a hallmark of universities throughout the developed industrial world.

Surely, we do not lack the qualified manpower and manpower, for thousands of quality Arab academics, scientists and researchers are working today in universities in Europe, North America and the Pacific Basin. The answer, we would guess, lies in the fundamental role of universities in the Arab World. Are our universities supposed to be centres of original and applied research, designed to interact with our public and private sectors and use their expertise to help resolve our developmental challenges? Or are they an isolated, exalted and self-contained universe unto themselves, content to turn out large quantities of graduates who relate to their societies in virtually the same manner as do our primary and secondary school students? Is the purpose of a university to teach students to think creatively, or only passively and imitatively? The Arab World has spent billions of dollars on higher education in recent decades, with impressive results. It is time for a deep assessment of how cost effective that expenditure has been, and how it could be improved.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Preemptive strike

THE Iraqi pilots have dealt a devastating blow to the Iranian forces destroying more than 500 tanks and armoured vehicles that have been massed along the border for another Iranian aggression. This preemptive strike was carried out in self-defence and to repel danger before it is directed against the Iraqi people. The new technique would not doubt impede the Iranian plans and thwart their evil intentions. The success of the pilots' mission reveals the fact that the Iraqis have acquired excellent experience in their war against the invaders, and a final success will eventually have its beneficial effect on the whole Arab region. The successes of the Iraqi forces in the battlefield are a cause of fear for the Israelis who still believe that the Arabs are incapable of handling sophisticated weapons and unable to meet their adversaries in the battlefield. Iraq which has been extending a hand for peace, finds itself forced to send out its pilots to attack Iranian regions in self-defence and in a bid to abort all Iranian plans and ambitious designs in Arab territory.

Al Dustour: American policies

A statement by one of the American State Department officials in which he called on Arab countries to absorb the Palestinians living in their countries, constitute a precedent of a highly dangerous proportion. This statement, coming from a country which is totally biased towards the Israelis, reflects that country's intention of pursuing the same policies of providing unlimited help for the aggressors in defiance of the international community's will. This statement could be a harbinger of a new American policy that would be more and more inclined towards supporting the Israelis and their actions, and is clearly a violation of all United Nations resolutions on Palestine. Though such a statement does not unveil further proof of America's support for the Israeli aggressors, yet adopting such a stand reflects Washington's new look towards the Palestinian refugee issue and should be confronted from the start. If no strong reaction is drawn from the Arab countries, the American administration will no doubt be encouraged to take further steps in this respect, and might adopt the statement as part of its official policy.

Sawt Al Shaab: Bolstering ties with Syria

THE cabinet has reportedly formed new teams to handle joint projects carried out in cooperation with Syria in a bid to start afresh on the road of joint cooperation in economic, industrial and information fields. The new step is another constructive effort on the part of the government to reactivate the economy, and at the same time bolster brotherly ties with the Syrian people. Jordan and Syria have gone a good way in their joint march leading towards the fulfilment of aspired goals. The Jordanian and Syrian people can now move along a secure path characterised by coordination and consultation, which eventually will lead to serving the national causes. Arab might, strength and unified stand can help the Arabs to regain their rights and safeguard their interests.

Profiles of key figures on French political scene

Reuter

PARIS — Following are brief portraits of key French politicians in Sunday's general elections:

Jacques Chirac (won)

Jacques Chirac, 53-year-old mayor of Paris and leader of the Gaullist RPR party, is a man of fierce energy and ambition who has left a mixed trail of friends and foes in nearly 20 years in politics.

After helping centre-right leader Valéry Giscard d'Estaing win the presidency in 1974, Chirac was made prime minister but he fell out with Giscard and resigned in 1976. The two patched up their quarrels last year to seal an electoral pact, although strains remain.

The tall, jocular politician has won a large following in Paris for his efficient management of the capital since 1977. But his abrasive style and swing to liberalism have left him trailing well behind rival Raymond Barre in opinion polls on prospective presidential candidates.

Laurent Fabius (lost)

Laurent Fabius made French history in July 1984 when at the age of 37 he was appointed President Francois Mitterrand's second cabinet leader, becoming the youngest prime minister in more than 100 years.

A smooth-talking brilliant technocrat with a no-nonsense style, Fabius is one of several Socialists tipped to take over from Mitterrand as party leader and presidential candidate.

But the prime minister's moderate policies have alienated radical Socialists, while rivals criticise his speedy rise to the top of the party as Mitterrand's protégé.

Raymond Barre (won)

After a period in the political wilderness only five years ago, opposition maverick Raymond Barre has made a stunning comeback, topping political popularity charts for more than a year as the man the French want most as their next president.

A former economics professor whose textbooks are standard works in French universities, he was named prime minister in 1976

by President Giscard d'Estaing. He exited in disgrace after the Socialist victory of 1981, one of the least popular recent prime ministers due to his anti-inflationary policies.

Barre, 61, has campaigned against the Socialists but has refused to join forces with rivals Giscard and Chirac, whom he criticises for accepting the principle of "cohabitation."

Jacques Chaban-Delmas (won)

Jacques Chaban-Delmas, 71, mayor of Bordeaux for the past 39 years, has been largely absent from the national political scene since 1974 when he was defeated in the race for the presidency by Giscard d'Estaing.

A jaunty politician who in his youth was a top tennis player and rugby international, Chaban still cuts a dashing figure. As a prominent liberal Gaullist he has been widely tipped as a leading candidate to form a conservative government under Socialist President Francois Mitterrand.

Valéry Giscard d'Estaing (won)

Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, the 60-year-old centre-right leader ousted as president by Mitterrand in 1981, could be offered the premiership or finance ministry.

The founder of the UDF federation of small centrist parties, Giscard made a political comeback in 1984 and since then has played a big role on the national scene.

Giscard and his former prime minister Chirac, after parting over a quarrel, were leading architects of the joint RPR-UDF opposition programme for government signed in January.

Simone Veil (won)

Simone Veil, 58, one of the few women to have emerged in France's male-dominated French political world, has for more than a decade remained near the top of the popularity polls.

A member of the UDF, she served as president of the European Parliament from 1979-82 and currently heads the liberal group in that assembly. She has maintained the image of an independent politician.

...according to Western diplomats

By Jonathan Steele

MOST British correspondents covering the Falklands war were indignant at the way the Ministry of Defence fed them selected and one-sided reports of the fighting. Supported by colleagues from other countries, they vowed they would never be "used" this way in a war again.

This proud stand differs, regrettably, from the way things operate in the much longer, and more difficult war in Afghanistan. For six years now, before the Falklands war and since, British, American and other reporters have been attending one-sided briefings on the Afghan war, and usually transmitting the stories without any checking.

The weekly briefings at the American and British embassies in Delhi and Islamabad are known to those who take part as the "Tuesday Follies." But in the competitive climate of Western journalism they are taken seriously enough for few reporters to risk boycotting them.

Led by the wire services where pressures for a "good story" and a "strong lead" frequently outweigh natural scepticism and sound judgment, the stories flash to receptive news desks. When no Western forces are directly involved and the "enemy" is the Soviet Union, distinctions between hard news, soft news, and outright propaganda seem to lose all validity.

At a recent U.S. briefing in Islamabad I was astonished to hear that the town of Paghman, just

outside the Afghan capital, Kabul, "appears to remain firmly in the hands of the resistance despite repeated regime and Soviet efforts to assert military control over the area." Eight days earlier I had been taken to Paghman by Afghan government officials whom I had challenged to prove that what the Western embassies were saying was wrong. From my observation the Afghan government was right.

It is not hard to understand why the briefings are accorded-prone when one realises that diplomats in Kabul, who compile the weekly reports and cable them to India and Pakistan, are not permitted to go out of Kabul by the Afghan authorities.

The briefings contain two categories of military information. One is a laundry list of sightings and sounds of Kabul, consisting of aircraft and troop movements, and night time gun and rocket noise. (The Americans have a man on their embassy roof all night). This type of information is broadly accurate even though its significance is often vague. Where were the helicopters going? Who in the night time was shooting at whom and what happened?

Then there are events beyond Kabul. Their accuracy depends entirely on the reliability of the source. Is it bazaar gossip, rumour picked up by embassy cooks and night watchmen, or word filtered back from the conscript son or cousin of diplomats' servants? The briefings never make this clear.

True or false, the stories were

all one-sided. "Any Mujaheddin casualties?" the hard-bitten Voice of America correspondent, Don Larrimore, asked after the embassy briefs recounted a clash in which "seven officers and scores of Soviet and Afghan government soldiers were killed or wounded."

"I don't see any mention of any," said the briefers scanning his cable. "There hardly ever is," Alex Brodie of the Guardian and BBC explained afterwards. "It's one triumph after another."

Wire-service reporters at that briefing included a Pakistani representative of the Associated Press (who also writes for the Daily Telegraph), and others from Agence France Presse, the West German DPA, and the Saudi news agency. There was a man from the Japanese "moonie" paper, Sekai-Nippo, a man who doubles for Radio Free Europe and another "moonie" paper, the Washington Times, and a U.S. freelancer.

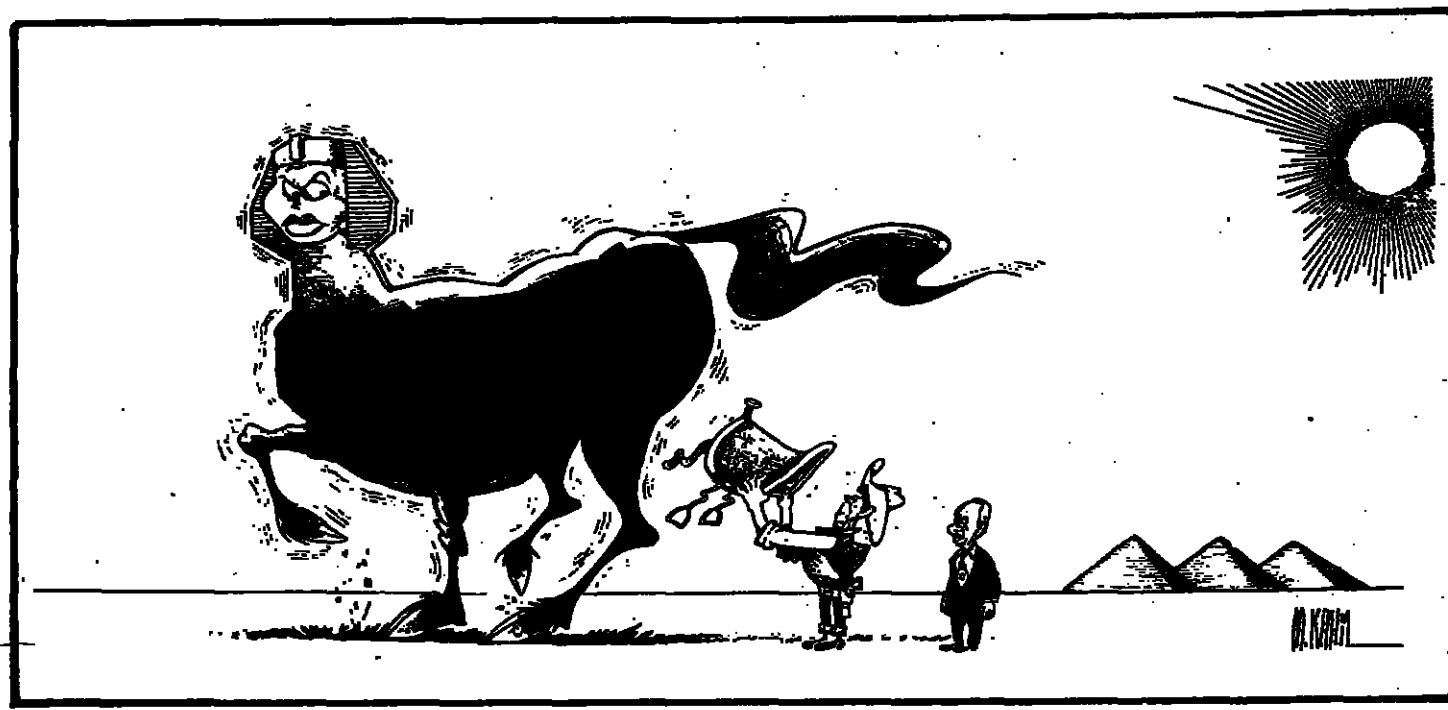
At the British embassy the briefing was better because it included non-military items, such as political and economic developments and a selection of "regime claims" which went some way to balancing the list of Mujaheddin successes.

The accuracy of the military information was open to the same caveats as that provided by the U.S. briefing. "All villages within 40 kilometres of Jalalabad have been destroyed," said one situation report in the very week that I was visiting thriving villages in that area.

Whether the tone of the briefings is gung-ho or modest, exaggerated or cautious depends on the style of the diplomat who writes it. An embassy which wanted to slip in deliberately false "disinformation" obviously has the perfect outlet. The system would not work if journalists did not go along with it. In the context of a war in which the Afghan and Soviet sides never show independent journalists the fighting, some argue that the Western briefings are better than nothing. Others claim the briefings are only one source among others, and provide raw material for checking.

The speed with which the stories appear on the international wires suggests that little or no checking is done. Reporters who attend the Islamabad briefings say they sometimes bounce the tales from Kabul on to their Mujaheddin contacts as a check, but the reporters who go to the Delhi briefings have no such contacts. They file anyway. Some reporters complain that, even when they disbelieve the briefing and do not file, their newspapers sometimes print a news agency version because it sounds good or just to fill a space. The Guardian has succumbed to this temptation.

The result is that week after week the Western world is being fed a story of Mujaheddin success and Soviet discomfiture which may be far from the truth. The only beneficiaries, at least in the short term, are the Mujaheddin and their political and military backers. Later on, the bubble may burst — The Guardian.



Japanese landowners oppose renewal of U.S. bases lease

By Chikako Kawakatsu

TOKYO — With the lease of the U.S. air base on Okinawa scheduled to expire in May 1987, the Japanese government is preparing to fend off objections of several thousand landowners who oppose extension of the lease for another 20 years.

When the Okinawa Prefectural Land Exploitation Commission held a public hearing recently, the opposition was expected to be high among the 2,092 owners of 650,000 square metres of land who refuse to let it be used by the U.S. military. The area includes the air base and 26 other military installations on the island.

Situated at Kadena in the middle of Okinawa Island, the U.S. Fifth Air Force's base covers 20 square kilometres and includes two 3.7 kilometre long runways. Some plots inside the runways and on their periphery, totaling 2,000 square metres, are owned by air base opponents who call themselves "one-tsubo" landowners. A "tsubo" is a Japanese unit of area equivalent to roughly four square yards.

Eager to see the U.S. military pull out of this southern Japan island, some opponents have devised a system in which many people have purchased only one tsubo of land from the original Japanese

landowner. The tactic will make it difficult for the Japanese government to negotiate with the Americans because it is legally required to negotiate first with each of the landowners.

The one-tsubo strategy has also been used by activists to stymie efforts by the Japanese government to build an additional runway at the Narita International Airport near Tokyo.

When Okinawa reverted to Japanese administration in 1982, about 30,000 people then owned land in use by the U.S. military. In the next ten years, that number dropped to 150, as the result of generous offers to landowners from the Japanese government.

Only since the Anti-War Association of one-tsubo Landowners appeared in December 1982 has the number of landowners surged. The association claims about 700 members in its main islands and 1,200 on Okinawa.

"It is really a shock to us," said Tsuneo Kasahara, chief of facilities at the Okinawa Defence Facilities Bureau. "I had no idea that there were as many as 700 one-tsubo landowners in the main islands."

One association member, Shigenobu Uehara, explained his involvement: "I lost my father in

the bloody Okinawa battle and I will never know precisely where he was killed. I know many of our members lost their relatives in the battle and are eager to protect young people from war."

Koichi Kato, director-general of the Japan Defence Agency, Tokyo,

does not conceal his displeasure with the one-tsubo movement. Speaking at the Lower House Cabinet Committee last December, he commented, "I will never understand their movement" — Asahi News Service, Tokyo.

LETTERS

An early 'April fool'?

To the Editor:

AS "Randa Habib's Corner" has, in its time, stirred up many a "Hornet's nest," I look forward eagerly each week to read whatever controversial subject she has devised for us.

On reading the March 10th column I thought: "Oh! Good for her! She's coming to the aid of the workers!" On reading on however I discovered that the "work rules" she had included in her article seemed vaguely familiar. Then I remembered having seen them before. A short while ago they were widely available in most book-stores in Amman, in either card or poster form and meant to be taken as a joke; tasteless maybe, but depending on your sense of humour, a joke, nevertheless. There is one of these posters in a small but popular "take-away" cafe in Amman, prominently displayed for the amusement of its customers.

I mused for a long while on this, wondering how Randa had been hoaxed into believing that these "rules" were actually authentic laws laid down by some medieval tyrant gloating and holding a whip over desk loads of cowering typists here in Amman. (Who is this "fagin"? We should be told!)

After much thought I came to the only conclusion that made sense. Of course! Randa always plays a joke on "April Fools Day." This is it, but something awful happened and it wasn't held over until the great day. Heads will roll over the printing presses.

Anyway Randa, we, your fans expect and deserve an explanation. Don't you agree? Keep up the good work, my friends and I still love your corner and agree that you possess that rare talent, to be able to inject humour into the most serious of subjects without causing offence to anyone.

Mairs Uzai
Amman

What to do with Marcos?

To the Editor:

IN the light of the overwhelming evidence that the Marcos clique was leading a debauched life suited for a world emperor at the expense of the poor millions of the Philippines, one could only suggest several ways of retribution to the ousted president and his wife Imelda.

— The most logical sentence is a slow, inch-by-inch death for Marcos and Imelda at the hands of the Filipino people in the streets of Manila. Well, this wish is not exactly compatible with the international norms of conduct advocated by the moderates of the world. So, let us go to the next choice.

— Solitary confinement for both in an underground dungeon where each has to pay \$10 million for every glass of water and every slice of bread (courtesy Alexander Dumas "The Count of Monte Cristo"). No water or food when the money runs out.

— Let Marcos and Imelda loose in the Saharan desert with a half-filled water-can and a loaf of bread. It would be fun to watch the former emperor and empress fight over the last drop of water and tear at each other for the last crumbs of bread.

The last choice, though the lightest, is to allow Marcos and Imelda to return to Manila and live in one of those slums that "decorate" the Philippines capital. The couple should put in 12 hours of hard toil a day for 10 pesos and let them find out how life was like for the Filipino millions under the Marcos reign. Let us see how the "queen of the Philippines" manages to live without 3,000 pairs of footwear, \$26,000 worth of flowers and dresses costing \$30,000 each.

Obviously the best choice is the second one, under which Marcos and Imelda would shed out every cent they own for water and bread. It would ensure that at least part of the \$10 billion they own around the world would be returned to the Philippines national treasury, and help Manila restore some kind of order in its \$25 billion foreign debt situation. Well, what do you think?

Miguel D. Pereira
Amman

Lenten fast can contribute to welfare of the poor

By Reverend Musa Adeli

ALL religions have their occasional fast and feast days during the year. The Muslims observe the fast during the month of Ramadan followed by the feast of Al Fitr. The Christians have their forty days lent — one of fasting and penance — terminating in the glorious Easter celebrations. The Hindus maintain days of fast and abstinence at certain times and they celebrate the feasts of "Light" and "Holi."

Some view religion as something personal between the individual and God. They say that it is enough to have an intimate communion with the Deity in prayerful solitude. It is not entirely correct. Collective worship of God is enjoined by all religions as a social obligation of expressing the

community's dependence on Him. The observance of feasts and fasts are also to be understood in this context.

Most people understand the importance of feasts and fasts which would involve an amount of prayer and worship. But many do not grasp sufficiently well the significance of feasts and abstinence.

The purposes for which fasting and abstinence, advocated by all religions are almost the same. Such self-denying acts, first of all, have a purificatory effect, beneficial to the spiritual soul. The general notion is that man has fallen away from God through sin — which is breaking the divine laws by man's deliberate will. And as such man has to undergo certain punishment to atone for his sinful

actions. It is not enough to express sorrow for sins through an internal whisper but must be shown through fast and abstinence, as man's body too cooperated in the acts of sin. The Christian ceremony of smearing of people's forehead with ashes, for example, on ash-Wednesday symbolises man's repentance and the beginning of fast and abstinence to atone for his sins.

Secondly, one might say, fasting and abstinence have an economic aspect. Considerable amount of money could be saved by fasting and abstinence and that could be utilised to do charitable works for the poor.

In some countries people observe what is known as the "family fast." The normal amount of food is prepared in the family (making

sure it is of the type which will not go bad if not used); then each one of the family members holds back and only eats what he/she decides upon. What is left over at the end of the day is arranged on dishes and taken to some really poor family or to a beggar in the street, taking good care as not to offend the susceptibilities of the poor which should always be respected.

If this practice does not seem feasible, the family simply calculates the amount of money saved and gives it to some poor or to a fund-raising agency for the poor such as "the Holy Childhood Collection." Parents also can encourage children to drop 1 filla a day from the pocket money they give them to buy sweets into the box specifically kept in schools and other places for donations,

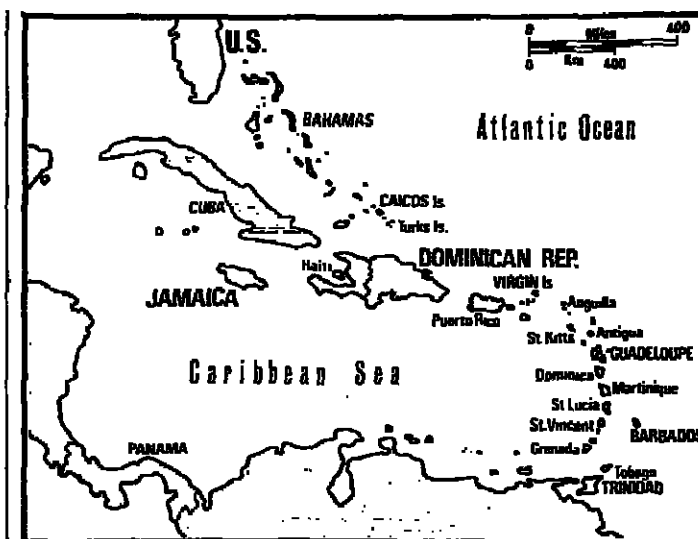
meant to help the poor.

Abstinence does not only concern food. What about smoking, drinking, parties, television, video-viewing? What about feeling the pavement under the feet sometimes instead of always taking the car? What about just being polite and patient with others all the time? Fasting and abstinence ultimately should help discipline the body, regulate and control one's inescapable tendencies, and transform one's attitudes towards others.

In Jordan, there are many societies and charitable organisations, both religious and secular, doing wonderful work for the poor. This does not mean that the entire responsibility of looking after the less fortunate and needy falls only on such charitable ins-

tutions or organisations. All people at all times cannot dedicate themselves to the cause of the poor and that is quite understandable. But they are all advised to contribute something as their share at least at specified times of the year. For the Christian people lenten period is the occasion when they can contribute their mite in the uplift of the poor through their fast and abstinence.

Lent, as the poet put it is a time to "fast from thy sin as well as from thy bin." The message is clear. Fasting at table to be sure, but it should include also abstaining from all that alienate us from God and our neighbour. Let us do it quietly. Lent starts with ash-Wednesday that falls on 19th of this month and ends with Easter Sunday, 4th May.



Israeli know-how bears fruit in the Caribbean

The Caribbean wants to do more of what it does best: growing fruit and vegetables. Canute James describes how Tel Aviv is helping the region to create more lucrative harvests.

KINGSTON — The desire of several Caribbean countries to exploit potentially valuable markets in non-traditional agriculture products has given rise to several joint-venture farms in the region. Among the most avid investors in this effort to widen the base of Caribbean agriculture have been Israeli companies.

The ventures have seen a compatible marriage of a Caribbean concern for easing dependence on traditional export crops — sugar, bananas, coffee, cocoa — and modern Israeli technology, developed in more arid conditions, and running out of useful land.

The new projects are aimed at increasing output of export-quality fruit and vegetables. Not only is the land available in the Caribbean, but the market is at hand. The harvest of the new direction in agriculture is being marketed in the U.S., and competitively so, thanks to the Caribbean Basin Initiative, a trade scheme which allows duty-free entry for a range of Caribbean products.

Agriculture projects involving Israelis are underway in Costa Rica, Haiti, Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic and Jamaica. It is in the last two that the new efforts are bearing most fruit.

Israeli investors have a 49 per cent stake in Domex, a fruit venture in south central Dominican Republic which was started four years ago.

The venture, capitalised at \$28 million, is to get another \$3.2 million this year.

It is concentrating on canteloupes and pineapples for export, and is aiming at export earnings of over \$8 million per year. The company has refrained from purchasing land to establish its own farms and employ local farm hands. It works through a network of local farmers, providing them with technical and financial assistance, chemicals and equipment and undertaking to buy their produce at guaranteed prices.

In the country's north-west region, Israeli investors have taken a 22 per cent holding in a venture producing cotton, maize, sorghum and tomatoes.

Local investors hold the majority 70 per cent stake, with the remaining equity held by the International Finance Corporation of the World Bank.

The company, Productora Nacional de Algodon, grew out of feasibility studies by an Israeli government agency, and makes use of drip irrigation technology.

Cotton production is the basis of the \$13 million joint venture, and the company plans to establish cotton gins next year, and facilities for the production of cottonseed oil and cottonseed cake (for animal feed).

These ventures have encouraged other Israeli investors who are contemplating the establishment of farms to produce more fruit and vegetables, while others are exploring the U.S. hor-

ticultural market. The Israeli's contribution is not only through active involvement. Having shown what can be done in non-traditional agriculture in the Dominican Republic, other investors are moving in.

The local Grupo Financiero Popular and United Brands of the U.S. are partners in a \$12 million venture in the country's south central district, which aims to farm 2,300 acres of pineapples, for export to the U.S. The company, Frutas Dominicas, is aiming at production of 80 million lbs of pineapples and 450,000 gallons of concentrates per year by 1988.

Israeli interest in investing in Jamaican agriculture has resulted in Jamaica Agro Products, a \$30 million venture covering 6,000 acres in the south central plains of the island. The company is a joint venture between the state-owned National Investment Bank of Jamaica and Wild World Promoters, headed by Mr. Eli Tisona, an Israeli entrepreneur.

The venture was born out of a Jamaican government plan to use 200,000 acres of unused and under-used land for non-traditional agriculture. It is concentrating on winter vegetables, fruit and fish.

"Vegetable farms cover about 1,000 acres, and exports in 1984 to Britain and the U.S. totalled 6,500 tonnes. The target for last year was 10,000 tonnes.

The company has overseas orders for four times as much as it is producing, and has been attempting to meet demand by purchasing from local farmers who are being introduced to modern agricultural technology including drip irrigation.

The farm is also planning 500 acres of mangoes, of which 150 acres have been planted. It is aiming at 500 acres of fish ponds, and has had enquiries from major U.S. food chains about its red snapper, reared in fresh water.

At the heart of the project is a large, computerised grading and packing shed.

Jamaica Agro Products has also spread its operations to one traditional Jamaican fruit — bananas. The company says pilot projects have shown that with new varieties it can produce up to 40,000 tonnes per year to aid Jamaica's efforts to regain a foothold on the British market.

The venture has encouraged another joint effort in bananas by Israeli businessmen and the National Investment Bank. The Victoria Banana Company, also located in south central Jamaica, is concentrating on production of the ziv variety of banana, developed in Israel, using drip irrigation technology.

The company has already planted 1,300 acres of a planned 3,000 acres, and has made test shipments to Britain where it says the reaction to the fruit has been good — Financial Times news feature.

Singapore wrestles with the problem of growing old

By Lai Kwok Kin
Reuters

SINGAPORE — Two decades after launching a major programme to curb population growth, Singapore is beginning to wonder if its efforts have proved too successful.

Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew's government, which urged couples to have only two children, now fears the island state could end up next century with too few people in their working prime to support the growing ranks of the aged.

Officials say the government may eventually be forced to reverse its two-child policy to deal with the problem.

If Singapore's 2.6 million predominantly-Chinese population ages too quickly, it could lead to expensive health care problems and a shortage of workers and soldiers.

Official statistics show the number of Singaporeans aged 64 and above will rise fourfold to make up 20 per cent of the total population by 2030, the year the population is projected to start declining after hitting a 3.2 million peak.

And economists reckon Singapore faces the prospect of a worker shortage as the 1.3 million labour force nears zero growth towards 2000.

Member of parliament and sociologist Aline Wong said: "It is very serious. The next century is only 15 years away and we must act before then to at least postpone the problem."

"We must look again at our two-child policy, health care and old age programmes and help old folk contribute to the workforce,"

she told Reuters.

A government report issued this year says the fall in the labour force growth rate was the direct result of successful family planning programmes.

More worrying than possible manpower shortages, economists say, is the prospect of the ageing trend draining funds from the Central Provident Fund, an enforced savings scheme which now holds 24 billion Singapore dollars (\$12 billion).

Workers and employers currently contribute 25 per cent of total wages to the fund which finances national development projects, although the employers' input is being cut to 10 per cent in April as part of a package of pump-priming economic measures unveiled recently.

Apart from buying flats, workers can only withdraw their savings after reaching the retirement age of 55.

Analysts for British stockbrokers Phillips and Drew said in a report that fund payouts may exceed contributions when the republic's post-war baby boom workforce starts to withdraw its savings at the turn of the century. Many residents are worried that the government may not have enough funds to meet the expected payment deluge.

A government paper recently said fund payouts might be withheld till the age of 65 to make old folk continue working, sparking a public furor.

The paper, also, suggested that homes for the aged, except those for the sick and destitute, be phased out, and proposed laws to force younger Singaporeans to support aged parents. Singapore has 3,700 aged in 63



Singapore's comprehensive health delivery system reaches both young and old. Members from the Home Nursing Foundation make periodic visits to old people to monitor their health.

old folks' homes, including three run by the state, but is prepared only to take in old people with absolutely no dependents. The recommendations have yet to be approved, but the government consistently says it wants to transfer the burden of care to the individual and community to prevent the island turning into a debt-ridden welfare state.

Last year, it made it compulsory for everyone to set aside up to 15,000 dollars (\$7,500) of their Central Provident Fund savings for medical care to cut national health spending.

Deputy Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong said last month that two community health centres for the aged will be built each year to cut down long-term ins-

titutionalised health care. The centres, each catering to up to 200 old folk, will help them continue living at home, supported by their families and neighbours.

But as families shrink, the support base for the aged may crumble.

Prime Minister Lee introduced a scheme in 1984 to encourage university-educated mothers to

have a third child, allowing them to jump the queue for choice schools, but the government was forced to scrap the policy after strong public criticism.

Lee has also set up a matchmaking unit for career-minded graduate women, sending them on "Love Boat" style cruises and candlelight dinners with potential graduate husbands.

Condoms, panties, A-bomb — old images for poet laureate

By David Zimmerman
Reuters

FAIRFIELD, Connecticut — The last time Robert Penn Warren wrote on request, he fired condoms, panties and the atomic bomb at his readers in a stunning evocation of the absurdity of war.

As the first U.S. poet laureate, his readers are in store for another shock — he won't write any verse at all, trying instead to avoid the political minefields of Washington and the mantle of "national appraiser."

The 80-year-old Pulitzer prize-winning author of "All the King's Men" spoke with Reuters for several hours last week in the living room of his Connecticut home, a converted 18th century barn an hour's drive north of New York City.

His wife, writer Eleanor Clark, served cans of soda and beer, and their black cocker spaniel dog curled on the rug sleeping as the dying sun glinted over the old Steinway

grand piano and exposed cedar beams of the cathedral ceiling.

The Warrens spend their days writing, reading books, walking or working outdoors. They own no television and care little about screaming newspaper headlines.

"The (space shuttle) Challenger explosion. No, no, I couldn't write an ode about it," Warren said in his soft Kentucky drawl, reaffirming his belief that the position he was appointed to last Thursday by the Library of Congress will remain free of the politicians.

"I can't see myself doing that, even though I did it once. I was asked by a publisher to do a poem to go with John Hersey's 'Hiroshima,' and I said 'no' because my feelings didn't lend themselves to it."

But having read news accounts of the bomb run, he said he recalled prophetic facts being removed from the cabin of the plane that carried the crew to the South Pacific, where the Enola gay was being readied with its deadly

cargo. "Well finally, after some months, I thought about the crew and their celebrations beforehand and the debris in the cabin — the six packs of condoms. And it was the image of the condoms that stuck in my mind. It started the whole thing," Warren said.

"I fiddled around in my mind, and a line came. It was free verse. Then more and more lines and images came. I wrote in sections, like frozen flashes. And the last flash was the scene of the crew returning and going to bed, or trying to."

"It was the whole comic aspect of it all. The condoms, the explosion, the 'triumphal beauty' of the mushroom cloud, science used for war, mass annihilation, then a party when they came back. But some couldn't go to sleep. Consciousness."

"But it was the image of the condoms that stuck with me. It started it all. They were boys. They were hot. Real hot. It was a

job they had to do. A horrible job," he said, his blue eyes flashing as he began to read.

The poem, "New Dawn," written in 1983, begins with a stark chronology of the times in capitals around the world at zero hour in Hiroshima, then flashes back to the debris in the cabin of the plane that took the crew to Tinian.

"The optimistic irrelevance of six packs of condoms and three pairs of silk panties," Warren read, recalling the wild party the night before the dawn of the atomic age.

The entire mission then unfolds in stark, journalistic terms, and after six pages concludes with the crew returning to base, to a party and to search for sleep.

"Some men, no doubt, will, before sleep, consider. One thought: I am alone. But some. In the mercy of God, or booze, do not long stare at the dark ceiling." Asked to comment on the po-

etical content of the poem, Warren said the writer should always try to keep the two separate and let the language work its own magic.

"No poem is ever written without political implications, moral implications, and people are allowed to make their own conclusions," he said, adding that as poet laureate he "will not refrain from saying what I want publicly or privately."

But he insisted he will not write on command, and will stick with the poetry reading and lecture he is required to give at the Library of Congress during his one-year tenure.

Warren said although "New Dawn" was done on request, it was "one of my better ones."

"The ending just came to me. It seemed right. There was no predicting it. The poem finds its own logic. You can't always tell beforehand what happens."

"A poem is an exploration of your own consciousness," he added. "The meaning was there

but you didn't know it."

"Rhyme is valuable in this sense because it always suggests something," he went on. "The bondage of the metre carries suggestions. Rar-hat-bat-cat... 10 ideas can come popping out all at once."

"The feeling of it just makes sense, and the bondage of the rhyme then becomes the release. Any event can spark it... An impulse will do it."

"I was in Vermont once on the edge of a woods, and suddenly, phoom, partridges came flying out of the brush and into the sunset. It's the same thing with a poem. You can't force it."

"I haven't written one good poem this year, just imitation of my own work," he continued.

"When that happens you better take a deep breath and pray to God and wait for change. Everything changes."

But he warned: "You just can't imitate yourself. That's death, real death, surely suicide."

A vessel emerges in ghostly detail: scientist describes finding Titanic

National Geographic News Service

WASHINGTON — "I cannot believe my eyes. From the abyss two and a half miles beneath the sea the bow of a great vessel emerges in ghostly detail. I have never seen the ship — nor has anyone for 73 years — yet I know nearly every feature of her."

So writes Robert De. Ballard of Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, describing the moment in which he first saw on a video screen the S.S. Titanic, the luxury liner lost after collision with an iceberg in 1912 at a cost of 1,522 lives.

Ballard's account, written in association with Jean-Louis Michel of the Institut Français de Recherches pour l'Exploitation des Mers (IFREMER), appeared in the December National Geographic. Accompanying it were photographs, many of them previously unpublished, taken by an underwater camera after the long-lost liner's remains were first

spotted on Sept. 1.

Well-preserved wreckage

Titanic's long stay at the bottom of the ocean, some 13,000 feet below the surface of the North Atlantic, apparently has not caused significant damage. Although several of the photographs show that parts of the vessel are coated by the remains of marine organisms, her details are clearly visible. "The sea has preserved her well," Ballard writes.

The still photographs were taken from ANGUS, short for Acoustically Navigated Geological Underwater Survey, a "blind" camera sled towed from the surface and guided by means of sonic beacons on the sea floor.

Only when ANGUS was raised and the film developed aboard the Woods Hole research ship Knorr — in a photographic laboratory compartment designed by National Geographic technicians — could Ballard and his colleagues tell precisely where their craft had

been. Apart from the sheer fascination of providing a glimpse at the famous liner, the photographs have begun to answer many of the questions that long have been asked about the Titanic disaster.

For example, one of the photographs confirms the loss of the foremost of Titanic's four giant stacks.

"Some accounts maintain that the funnel collapsed violently when the ship upended; others claim it worked loose as the water engulfed it," Ballard writes. "Our pictures support the former conclusion. During one sweep along the superstructure we took a photograph showing the huge circular opening where the funnel once joined the deck. Massive steel flanges have been wrenched open like the lid of a sardine can."

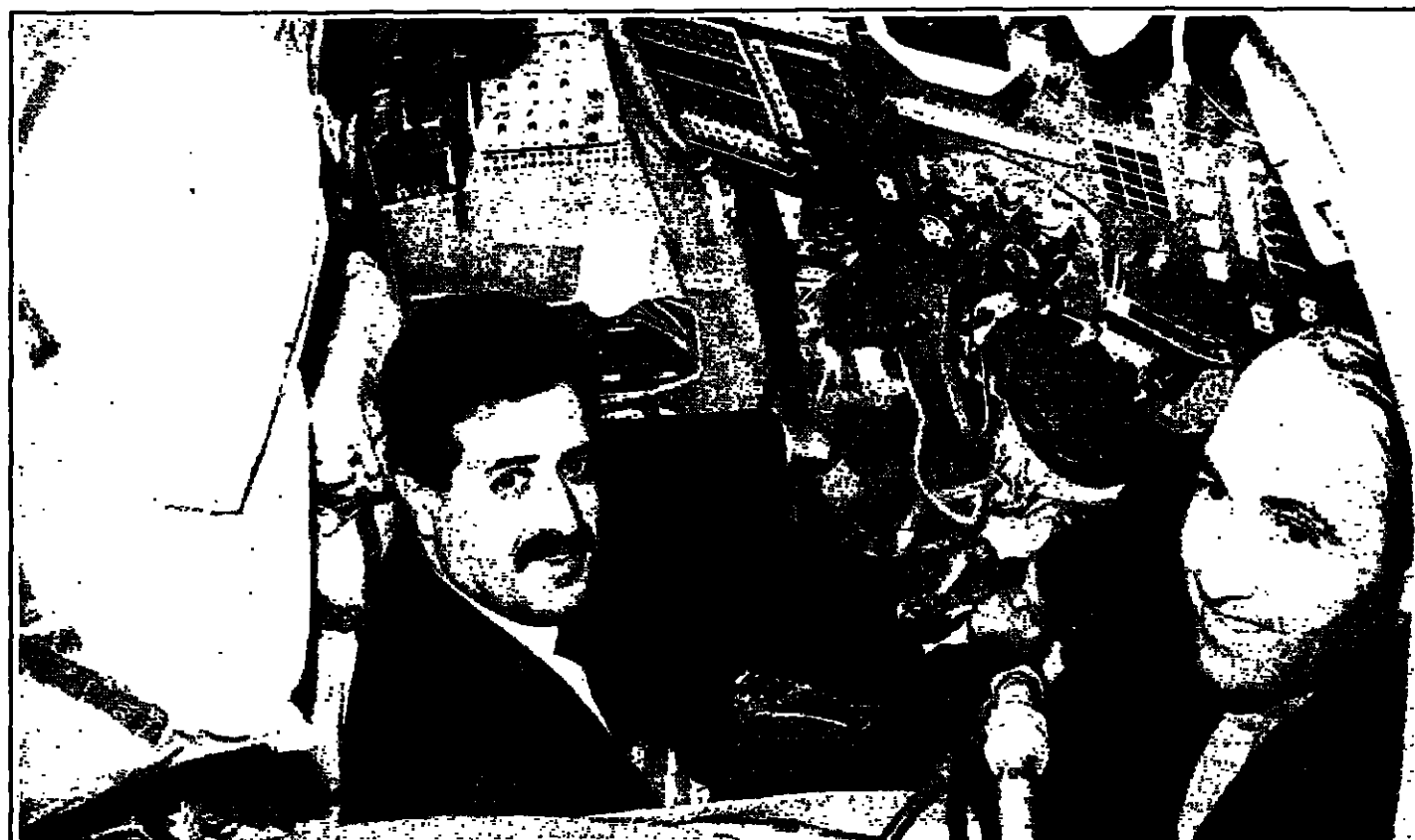
Astor killed on bridge

Another photograph confirms the destruction of the wing bridge on the starboard side, where Ti-

anic's most famous passenger, John Jacob Astor, met his fate. When the American millionaire was refused space in a lifeboat with his wife, he made his way to the bridge, where he was standing when the forward funnel smashed across it.

"All three bulkheads of the bridge have been wrenched apart and flattened as though by a giant steamroller, yet by some fluke the overhead light remains attached to the roof," Ballard writes in describing the photograph. "No human could have survived such a cataclysm, and in fact Astor's body was found afloat but horribly mangled a week after the sinking."

Despite the obvious damage suffered by Titanic, Ballard believes she hit the bottom fairly gently, certainly not at the 100-mile-an-hour speed suggested by some authorities. Much of the damage, including the fracture of her hull, may have occurred at the surface, or perhaps as she twisted her way to the bottom, he says.



SYRIAN COSMONAUTS: Two Syrian cosmonauts, Mohammad Faris and Mami Habib, are training currently in the Yuri Gagarin Cosmonauts Training Centre in Zvyozdnyy for a joint

Soviet-Syrian space mission. The two are studying space equipment and trained on the particulars of the mission's programme (Photo by V. Kazmina - TASS)

Milla puts Cameroun through to Cup final

ALEXANDRIA, Egypt (R) — Striker Roger Milla scored his most important goal of the series so far to put Cameroun through to the final of the African Nations' Soccer Cup with a 1-0 victory over Ivory Coast here Monday.

Milla, who plays for French First Division club St. Etienne, scored the lone goal in the 46th minute when he took on his chest a ball deflected by Ivory Coast goalie Gbolle Zagoli.

Cameroun midfielder Andre Kana Biyik almost made it 2-0 when Milla put him in the clear with a pass that he shot just above the right post nine minutes after

the first goal. In a marvellous save in the 68th minute, Cameroun goalkeeper Thomas Nkono took the ball at the feet of Youssouf Fofana to deny Ivory Coast a potential equaliser.

Fofana, a 19-year-old striker with French club Monaco, came close again in the 75th minute when he unleashed a blazing shot

which went only centimetres above the crossbar.

In an attempt to strengthen its forward line, Ivory Coast replaced Pascal N'dri by Boris Dieket in the 62nd minute.

Cameroun in turn replaced Louis Paul Mfede in the 65th minute with Dajoprt Dang and brought on Mandoudou Oumarou in place of Ernest Eboungue in the 85th minute.

Cameroun captain Emmanuel Kunde was booked in the 27th minute by referee Edwin Picon of Mauritius when he flattened Fofana as the Monaco striker threatened a dangerous run down the left wing.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan struck the first goal for the Royal Jordanian Polo Club Monday en route to a 7-1 victory over the British Royal Air Force Polo Club in a match held in Zarqa. It was the first international match of the season for the RJPC, and Prince Hassan was joined on the field by Col. Mahmood Abu Nawar, Ammar Hmoud, and Mohammad Al Saman.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Hungary crushes Brazil 3-0 in friendly

BUDAPEST, Hungary (AP) — Hungary upset Brazil 3-0 (1-0) Sunday, in a warm-up encounter here for the World Cup soccer tournament this summer in Mexico. It was the second surprise defeat in a row for the Brazilians, who were blanked 0-2 by West Germany in Frankfurt on Wednesday. Lajos Detari opened the scoring in the fifth minute, heading the ball past Emerson Leao. His team-mate Kovacs made it 2-0 in the 60th minute, and Marton Esterhazy rounded off the scoring 13 minutes later. Detari's goal from close up seemed to put heart in the Hungarians, who dominated play in the first 15 minutes, forcing their opponents on the defensive. Brazil's offense picked up subsequently, but the team seemed to lose enthusiasm after the second goal.

Ajax keeps title hopes alive

AMSTERDAM (R) — A late equaliser by star Ajax Amsterdam striker Marco Van Basten against league leaders PSV Eindhoven kept alive Ajax title hopes Sunday. Dutch interest in football was buoyed by the national team's midweek 1-0 win in East Germany and Sunday's top of the table clash was watched by a sell-out crowd of 26,500. But in a game where good chances were missed on both sides, Ajax failed to take the opportunity to narrow the gap with PSV. The 1-1 draw keeps PSV top of the table with 38 points from 21 games with title-holders Ajax on 35 points from 22 games.

Brazil's press is critical of its team's performance

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil (AP) — Brazil's national soccer team lost its weekend exhibition match against Hungary because of a total lack of creativity and teamwork, local newspapers said Monday.

The Hungarian team downed Brazil 3-0 Sunday in Budapest. It was the team's second defeat in its two-game tour of Europe. On March 12, West Germany beat Brazil 2-0.

"With a little more than two months left before the World Cup, our team does not have the minimum conditions to take part in an international competition," said sports commentator Sergio Cabral in Monday's edition of the O Globo newspaper.

"The team seemed like a group of privileged spectators watching an exhibition of beautiful soccer by the Hungarian team," he added.

In its description of the game, O Globo said the team "demonstrated total lack of creativity, objectivity and teamwork."

"The team's basic problem is the lack of a defined game strategy," sports commentator Sandro Moreyra wrote in the Jornal Do Brazil newspaper.

"The team must define a strategy and end its improvisation," he added.

Prost to begin his title defence

By Ian Keresey
Renter

LONDON — Formula One motor racing re-starts in Brazil next weekend, promising a 1986 season every bit as intense as the heat drivers will face at Rio's Jacarepagua Track.

Alain Prost defends his world title with major challenger Keke Rosberg as his McLaren team-mate. Not so Ayrton Senna, who has successfully avoided a similar situation at Lotus in his single-minded bid to claim the crown.

Double champion Nelson Piquet has the task of fitting in at fiercely-competitive Williams, while Brabham's new-generation "low-line" offering will be handled by drivers who met contrasting success in rival cars last season.

Ferrari, alone among the leading teams, field the same driver line-up as last year in Michele Alboreto and Stefan Johansson. Italian Alboreto looked championship material for much of 1985, but his troublesome car let him down.

Sweden's Johansson replaced out-of-favour Frenchman Rene Arnoux, who re-appears elsewhere, and made an immediate impact. Success will not be denied him much longer.

Prost has spent three agonising years reaching the pinnacle of motor sports. Piquet, then Austrian Niki Lauda, edged him out in 1983 and 1984.

He knows full well that retaining the title has been beyond the reach of his contemporaries although he will naturally do his utmost to stay number one.

"My motivation is to win the world championship again," he said. "My new team mate Keke Rosberg will give me a hard time this year — and that's enough motivation for me."

"My target is to equal the record 27 victories," added Prost, who took his tally to 21 in the Italian Grand Prix last September, his most recent triumph.

Although the Frenchman would relish a second championship and possibly the record this season, he knows he cannot remain at the top forever. "It is not realistic to believe that it is possible to win the championship five or six times in modern Formula One racing," he said.

Prost has mixed feelings about Rosberg's arrival from resurgent Williams. "I had a fantastic relationship with Niki Lauda and that will be difficult to follow with Keke as my team-mate, even though we are friends."

"There will be tremendous rivalry between us." There certainly will because McLaren drivers do not have to adhere to team orders, a situation aptly demonstrated at last year's Dutch Grand Prix when Lauda refused to let title-chasing Prost pass him and seal victory.

Hard-charging Rosberg apart, Prost reckons Williams could prevent McLaren's domination extending into a third year.

Frank Williams' team won the last three races of last season and there is no reason for the run to end, particularly with gifted Piquet on the strength after his seven-year stay at Brabham. Preparations have continued despite last Saturday's road accident involving the team owner.

Nigel Mansell, who ended a long, lean spell for British drivers with his European Grand Prix win at Brands Hatch in October and followed up that personal breakthrough in South Africa, remains at Williams for a second, maybe more profitable, season.

Piquet's departure from Brabham has left chief designer Gordon Murray with capable Italian recruits Elio De Angelis and Riccardo Patrese in charge of his latest offering — the most radical new concept to emerge for 1986.

Murray has produced a car with the lowest overall bodywork of any Formula One machine. Cornering speeds of the seven-gear model should increase dramatically, although the drivers face the problem of adjusting to semi-reclining, rather than upright, cockpit positions.

Senna, the brooding Brazilian, told Lotus during the close season that he did not want an established driver alongside him. He felt it would interfere with his title chances.

Lotus complied and signed British aristocrat Johnny Dumfries. He has tested cars but never raced in Formula One.

Derek Warwick, ex-Renault and poised to join Lotus, was out. Frenchman Patrick Tambay, Warwick's team mate at Renault before they quit Formula One along with fellow factory team Alfa Romeo, has joined Australian Alan Jones at Lotus.

The team, minus their big U.S. sponsor which is phasing out its involvement, hope to have the new Ford Turbo engine fitted to their cars four or five races into the calendar.

Frenchman Arnoux has popped up at Ligier where he partners compatriot Jacques Laffite, doyen of Formula One.

Cartwheeling Italian Andrea De Cesaris — who parted company with Ligier soon after his spectacular accident in Austria — drives a Minardi alongside compatriot Sandro Nannini, while crash-victim Jonathan Palmer of Britain will be back in action for Zakspeed.

Teams face new circuits and new regulations this season. Spain and Mexico return as hosts. Hungary stages the first Grand Prix in an East European country, the Dutch Grand Prix has gone for the moment and South Africa has been relegated to reserve status.

Fuel capacity has been further reduced from 220 to 195 litres, hence the trend towards lower, even sleeker cars.

Lotus Team Director Peter Warr said: "It will be difficult but not impossible to cope with the reduction in fuel. I don't think there will be any problems at Rio but when we get to a circuit like Imola fuel consumption will be very important."

"I can envisage cars failing to reach the finish again."

Soviets, E.Germans oppose open Olympics

BERLIN (AP) — East Germany and the Soviet Union, two powerhouses of international sports, have denounced plans to allow professional athletes into the Olympic Games, saying this would lead to the "commercial abuse" of the Games.

The two sports chiefs opposed proposals to revise the Olympic Charter to allow professionals to compete at the Games, SID said. The International Olympic

Committee announced Feb. 12 at a meeting in Switzerland that it had endorsed a proposed rule change that would open the Olympics to professional soccer, ice hockey and tennis players.

IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch said the proposal would involve a change in the Olympic Charter.

"The proposal will become official if approved by the IOC General Assembly in October."

Soviet skater takes early lead

GENEVA, Switzerland (AP) — Defending world champion Alexander Fadeev of the Soviet Union grabbed an early lead at the World Figure Skating Championships on Monday, taking the low score in the men's figures.

Fadeev, 22, of Moscow, gathered just a 0.6 factored place after the compulsory school figures, in which skaters trace out variations of the figure eight on the ice. The event kicked off six days of world competition at the Vernets Sports Center.

In second place after the figures, which count 30 per cent toward the final score, was 22-year-old Jozef Sabovick of Czechoslovakia, with 1.2, while Heiko Fischer, 26, of West Germany was third with 1.8.

Brian Boitano, 22, the American hope, was in fourth place with 2.4, while Canadian challenger Brian Orser, 24, was in fifth at 3.0. Orser finished a close second to Fadeev at last year's world championships, when Boitano was third.

WANTED

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THE HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN JORDAN VALLEY AUTHORITY Invitation for Engineering Services for Wadi Araba Development Project

The Jordan Valley Authority is seeking the services of a suitably qualified international consultant to conduct a study of ground water resources development in Wadi Araba in order to introduce irrigated agriculture into the area and to improve social and economic conditions of the local population.

The consultants should associate with local consultants bureaux or companies to conduct the study.

The consultants will be required to submit technical and financial proposals.

Qualification of consultants will be carried out according to the terms of technical proposal as outlined in an invitation letter.

Terms of reference and invitation letter for the study are now available at the Jordan Valley Authority main offices at Jabal Amman, Third Circle, Ras Al Ain Street.

Tel: 641472
P.O. Box 2792, Amman - Jordan.
Telex 21692 JVC JO

Offers will be received until 12:00 noon May 3rd., 1986.

Dr. Eng. Munther Haddadin
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A diplomatic mission in Amman has a vacancy for a secretary to perform secretarial and clerical duties, which include English typing (40 wpm), filing, answering telephone calls, etc. A minimum of 3 years of experience required. Operating WANG Word Processing equipment preferable.

Interested applicants may send resumes to the Personnel Officer, P.O. Box 354, Amman.

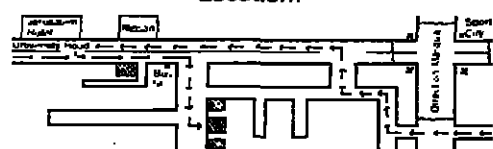
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FURNITURE FOR: Dining room, living room, bedroom, office plus TV, refrigerator, washing machine, electric cooker, stereo radio and many other things. From German family.

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<p>Cinema CONCORD Tel: 677420</p> <p>ROCKY IV (Colour)</p> <p>Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30</p>	<p>Cinema RAINBOW Tel: 625155</p> <p>STREET DANCE (Colour)</p> <p>Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30</p>	<p>Cinema Philadelphia Tel: 634144 - 634149</p> <p>FAST FORWARD (Colour)</p> <p>Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:15</p>	<p>Cinema RAGHADAN Tel: 622198</p> <p>KARTALLAR (Colour)</p> <p>Performances: 12:00, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00</p>	<p>Cinema OPERA Abdullah, behind Alia offices Tel: 675573</p> <p>HOLLYWOOD HOT TUBS (Colour)</p> <p>Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30</p>
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Yesterday's Jumbles: SKULL BRAVO WEDGED LAYMAN
Answer: What bowling was—
RIGHT DOWN THE ALLEY.

Reagan: Nicaragua is building deep water port

Managua accused of drug trafficking

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — President Reagan, seeking support for military aid to Nicaraguan rebels, said Nicaragua was increasing its threat to the region by building a deep water port with Communist help.

In a television address to the nation Sunday night, Mr. Reagan predicted crucial setbacks for the hemisphere if Congress failed to approve \$100 million in aid to the so-called Contra rebels trying to overthrow the Sandinista government.

"Central America is strategic to our Western alliance, a fact always understood by foreign enemies," he said in a last-ditch defence of his policies before the Congress vote on Thursday.

"Today, Warsaw Pact engineers are building a deep water port on Nicaragua's Caribbean coast, similar to the naval base in Cuba for Soviet-built submarines."

"They are also constructing, outside Managua, the largest military airfield in Central America — similar to those in Cuba, from which Russian Bear bombers patrol the U.S. east coast from Maine to Florida."

But Democratic congressmen, whose support is crucial for passage of the aid request, said after the speech they still opposed Mr. Reagan's policy in Central America.

The party's official response was made by Senator James Sasser who said Democrats agreed Nicaragua should not become a base for Soviet military interventionism.

"Our disagreement is with the means the president has used to achieve these goals," he said. "Our concern is that the president is seizing military options before he has exhausted the hope of a peaceful

solution."

A spokesman for House Democratic leader Thomas O'Neill described Mr. Reagan's speech as "a declaration of war" and said the president had exaggerated the Nicaraguan threat to the United States.

Mr. Reagan aimed his appeal directly at the public, asking them to urge congressmen to approve the aid package. Political analysts said the aid would be defeated unless Mr. Reagan changed the minds of about 15 House members.

Mr. Reagan said his administration had tried to negotiate with the Sandinistas but had been rebuffed.

In a nationally televised speech Mr. Reagan said, "I know every American parent concerned about the drug problem will be outraged to learn that top Nicaraguan government officials are deeply involved in drug trafficking. There seems to be no crime to which the Sandinistas will not stoop — this is an outlaw regime."

Mr. Reagan showed a two-year-old photograph that he said pictured a Sandinista official, Federico Vaughan, loading narcotics onto a plane.

Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) investigators have said their probe of Nicaraguan drug trafficking turned up evidence only against Vaughan, who was charged with cocaine smuggling in July 1984 in Miami but has not been brought to trial.

In Moscow the Soviet News Agency TASS on Monday accused President Reagan of resorting to "slander and concoctions" in a plea for aid to Nicaraguan rebels and compared the speech to the plot of the movie Red Dawn.

"The president's speech was reminiscent of the script of the controversial anti-Communist film Red Dawn," TASS said in a report from Washington. "The cheap movie, shot on money of reactionaries, describes an 'invasion of the United States' by Nicaraguan, Cuban and Soviet Armed Forces via Mexican territory."

TASS said that Mr. Reagan conjured up similar images in his television speech Sunday night urging Congress to approve \$100 million in military supplies and non-lethal support to rebels fighting the Sandinista government in Managua.

"Intimidating the American legislators and general public, the president claimed that Nicaragua, situated thousands of kilometres from the United States, threatens the national security of the United States and is becoming a 'moral threat to the entire new world,'" TASS said.

Mr. Reagan "resorted to slander and concoctions" and again blamed Nicaragua for rampant terrorism in Central America, TASS said.

TASS noted that Mr. Reagan gave assurances that Washington has no plans to use its armed forces against Nicaragua, but cited reaction from Nicaragua's Washington embassy and from democratic politicians to suggest the United States would use force against Managua.



Enrile: Marcos plotting to bring down government

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Defence Minister Juan Ponce Enrile released Monday what he said was a misleading letter from ex-president Ferdinand Marcos aimed at making it appear that Mr. Enrile has a deal with the deposed leader.

The letter received at the Defence Department Sunday denies a statement attributed to Marcos' daughter, Imee Manotoc, that she would use Marcos' fortune to try to have Enrile "liquidated," said ministry spokesman Eddie Pangilinan.

He said the letter, from Mr. Marcos in Hawaii, also said in part, "We are keeping our agreement. I hope you get on top of things."

Mr. Enrile, a co-leader of the military rebellion that helped drive Marcos from the Malacanang Presidential Palace, said the letter was an attempt to use disinformation to undermine confidence in the new Philippine government, Mr. Pangilinan reported.

The "We" in the final two lines of the letter, however, could be interpreted as referring not to Marcos and Enrile but to Marcos and his family, Marcos wrote in preceding lines that his family has agreed not to make any statements about their exile.

Mr. Enrile said he never made a "political agreement with Marcos prior to, during, or after the people's revolution," Mr. Pangilinan reported.

"All my conversations with Marcos by phone from Feb. 22 to Feb. 27 in particular, were done in the presence of many people and these conversations are of public knowledge," he quoted Mr. Enrile as saying.

"It is very clear they (Marcos and his backers) want to destroy the 'minister by sowing intrigue and that they will stop at nothing in an effort to make him look as shadys as they are,'" Mr. Pangilinan said.

Mr. Enrile said he talked to Marcos three times after Feb. 22, when he defected to support new President Corason Aquino.

On Feb. 25, Marcos said on the telephone he was willing to recognise Mrs. Aquino's provisional government, cancel the controversial results of the Feb. 7 presidential elections, and sit only as an honorary president with Mr. Enrile running the government, Mr. Enrile said.

The defence chief has said he refused all of Marcos' proposals. Mr. Enrile said he last talked to Marcos on Feb. 27, a day after the deposed president left the Philippines and went into exile.

Meanwhile, Communist rebels firing high-powered rifles ambushed local militia and civilians travelling in a van on Negros Island, killing 12 and seriously wounding four others, military officials said Monday.

The rebels attacked the militiamen and government oil company employees Saturday as they drove from a meeting with villagers in Amlan, about 600 kilometres south of Manila, said Central Visayas Islands Commander Col. Jose P. Santos.

The Muslim opposition has stymied efforts by Mr. Pairin's Parti Bersatu Sabah (PBS) to rule the timber-rich North Borneo state since the newly-formed, mainly Christian, Kadazan-tribe based party won elections last April.

Banks, businesses and shops closed as violence flared again in the streets of the city centre.

Scores of riot police with M-16 automatic rifles, batons and shields patrolled the areas around the mosque and court.

Some residents said they had kept their children home from school, although life was near normal in other parts of the city of some 100,000 people on the north west coast of Borneo.

Police said they shot dead one man and arrested two others they caught raiding a house Sunday night.

They said the incident was not connected with the political and religious violence which erupted in the city last Wednesday.

Protests rage all over S. Africa

JOHANNESBURG (R) — South African police shot dead a black man during a night of violence which flared in all four of the country's provinces and saw a petrol bomb attack in a usually-quiet town.

At least 17 people died in weekend protests.

A lengthy police report issued Monday said the man was killed when police fired shotguns at protesters near Knysna, a popular tourist resort on the Indian Ocean not far from the home of President P.W. Botha.

Five protesters were wounded and another was arrested.

At nearby Teasdale, where only whites are allowed to live under the apartheid race segregation system, a house was petrol bombed by blacks in an outbreak of violence rare in the area.

The report detailed arson attacks and other outbreaks of violence in South Africa's four provinces — Transvaal, Natal, Cape and the Orange Free State.

At Zwijl, in the eastern Cape, the homes of two black policemen came under petrol bomb attacks, but police said there were no injuries when one of the officers fired at the assailants.

Police made repeated use of shotguns and tear gas to quell the violence, which flared as Finance Minister Barend Du Plessis was due to deliver his budget to parliament.

Uncertainty over South Africa's future has arisen during two years of mass protest violence.

With the inflation rate running at around 21 per cent, its highest point since World War II, both blacks and whites are demanding tax relief measures.

But the country is locked in a deep financial crisis which last year forced it to freeze its debt

repayments, and financial analysts say Du Plessis has little room for manoeuvre.

The major problem causing international unease is the violent black reaction to white minority rule. More than 1,300 people have died in protests in the past two years.

A police spokesman said two men were killed and another wounded when police opened fire with shotguns on a crowd of petrol-bombing vehicles in a township west of Johannesburg.

Against such a background of violence, international confidence in the country has been seriously undermined and its currency, the rand, has plunged to record lows.

However, speculation in the local press is that Du Plessis is expected to attempt to appease the man in the street with slight tax cuts but will leave company taxes largely unchanged.

India hunts criminals after jailbreak

NEW DELHI (R) — A massive police manhunt Monday failed to track down internationally-wanted criminal Charles Sobraj who walked to freedom Sunday past drug guards in a top-security jail.

More than 24 hours after the jailbreak by Sobraj and six companions, armed policemen stopped cars and searched cyclists on the streets. A police spokesman said raids on several known hide-outs had also yielded no trace of the men.

Sobraj, the Saigon-born son of an Indian father and a French-Vietnamese mother, was once on Interpol's top-priority list and had been held in Indian jails since 1976.

The subject of two international bestsellers, he has been charged by Indian and Thai police with several robbery-murders in which victims were first drugged, and was awaiting possible extradition to Thailand.

Eight heavily-drugged guards at the maximum-security Thir Jail, who were fed spiked birthday sweets by Sobraj and two accomplices before Sunday's escape, were under arrest in a city hospital.

The guards were bound, gagged with surgical tape and locked into a prison office after they ate sweets brought by two men who said

they wanted to celebrate a birthday.

Sobraj 44, and his companions drove away in a waiting sedan, past other unsuspecting guards in a nearby watchtower.

In parliament, an embarrassed government was charged by angry opposition MPs with failing to maintain law and order. Minister of State for Home Affairs Ram Nivas Mirdha told the house an official inquiry had been set up and Interpol alerted.

Mr. Mirdha said more details of the escape would be known after the prison guards were interrogated.

A senior police official said police were watching airports, bus and railway stations and land frontiers.

He said one of the drugged guards raised an alarm 45 minutes after the jailbreak and added it was likely Sobraj had slipped into neighbouring Haryana state from the prison in west Delhi.

No stranger to prison escapes, Sobraj had only in a dressing gown vanished from a Delhi prison hospital in 1971, after his arrest over charges relating to a jewellery shop hold-up.

He was arrested again in 1976 and charged with drugging 22 French tourists in Agra, site of the Taj Mahal. He was later convicted and sentenced to five years.

13 saved from collapsed Singapore hotel

SINGAPORE (R) — Rescue workers clapped and cheered Monday as another survivor walked away from a collapsed Singapore hotel where he had been trapped for two days.

He and another man saved Monday brought to 13 the number of survivors but police think 40 people are buried in the rubble of the New World Hotel and know that some are still alive.

Eleven people are known to have been killed.

Spurred by the sound of voices, foreign and Singaporean mining engineers burrowed rescue tunnels into tons of rubble reeking with petrol fumes from damaged cars in the hotel basement.

Early this afternoon they freed two Chinese bank officials. One managed to limp to waiting doctors, clapped and cheered by the hundreds of rescue workers.

The bank was on the ground floor of the hotel but was pushed below ground by the force of the collapse. Rescuers said they passed some bodies as they forced their way lower down towards the basement where three people awaited rescue.

One British engineer, who declined to be named, said he penetrated to within one metre of the three and spoke to a woman. "She sounds chirpy," he said. "I heard two other people."

Doctors said they had a good chance of surviving if they were

not seriously injured.

Rescue workers plan to cut a small hole through the wall to insert a camera to assess their condition and how to approach them.

"We are working under the dangerous possibility that the whole thing could collapse," army doctor Lim Meng Kin told Reuters.

"We are racing against time," Director of Rescue Operations Lim Siam Kim told journalists.

Huge plastic sheets were laid over the rubble as light rain fell late Monday night.

Engineers expressed concern that additional water on the site could cause large concrete slabs to settle and threaten the tunnels below.

Sihanouk suggests new government

PEKING (R) — Prince Norodom Sihanouk said Monday his three-party anti-Vietnamese coalition was ready to form a government with the Heng Samrin administration if Hanoi began a troop withdrawal from Kampuchea.

Prince Sihanouk said in a statement his coalition and Hanoi should discuss a staged withdrawal of Vietnamese forces, and other countries could join talks for a political solution.

The statement, following a three-day meeting of the U.N.-recognised coalition's leaders, called for U.N. supervision of the troop withdrawal, a ceasefire, and elections.

Prince Sihanouk said a four-party coalition with himself as president and Son Sann remaining premier should be formed in a spirit of national reconciliation.

A joint statement issued by the three leaders expressed great satisfaction at the dry season military campaign against Vietnamese forces and accused them of genocide.

Prince Sihanouk's coalition groups his forces, supporters of Son Sann, and the Khmer Rouge — widely accused of killing vast numbers of Kampuchians during its rule from 1975 to 1978. It is battling to oust the Hanoi-backed Heng Samrin government which replaced the Khmer Rouge.

Diplomats said it would be difficult for Hanoi to reject out of hand the Sihanouk proposals, which called for a two-phase withdrawal of Vietnamese forces, with a ceasefire once this was agreed.

After the first phase of the withdrawal, Heng Samrin's faction would negotiate with Prince Sihanouk's coalition to form a four-party government that would hold free elections.

United Nations observers would supervise the ceasefire, the Vietnamese withdrawal and the elections and Sihanouk said an independent and united Kampuchea would be willing to sign a non-aggression treaty with Vietnam.

Prince Sihanouk left hospital last week after a 10-day check-up in Peking. His office said Monday he was in a satisfactory condition.

Diplomats noted that the coalition leaders met in Peking during a visit by Soviet First Deputy Prime Minister Ivan Arkhipov, who arrived on Saturday for 10 days of trade talks.

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"The objectives of the effort are to have every Marine thoroughly aware of the threat and to provide realistic and complete training and education, while also providing commanders with accurate intelligence concerning terrorist activities," says Lt. Col. John M. Shottwell, a Marine spokesman.

The corps also has improved physical security at its bases. It also has increased the size of the Marine Corps Military Police and acquired additional teams of dogs to sniff out explosives, Shottwell says.

But he adds that the most important part of the effort is to teach Marines they are no longer safe overseas, no matter where they are.

"The attitude, 'it will never happen to me,' increases the potential of becoming a target," the manuals say.

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COLUMN

Drug smugglers may get death sentence in UAE

ABU DHABI (R) — Drug smuggling in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) will carry the death penalty in some cases under a new law to take effect soon, justice sources said. The anti-narcotics law, under discussion for several years, has been ratified by the president, Sheikh Zaid bin Sultan Al Nahayan and will come into force one month after publication in the official register, expected soon. It aims at stamping out what officials say is a growing transit drug trade from Pakistan and India through the UAE, especially Dubai. The law provides a maximum death sentence if the smuggling involves an organised gang, or if a UAE customs officer or policeman is killed trying to make an arrest, the sources said. It also imposes up to life imprisonment for drug use, which officials say is on the rise among UAE residents. Dubai police recently seized 2.5 tonnes of hashish in what they said was the biggest drugs haul in the Gulf. The maximum current penalty for drug smuggling is five years imprisonment with a fine and deportation after the prison term. Each of the seven UAE emirates up to now have had their own codes.

Ministers to discuss drug abuse

LONDON (R) — Health Ministers from all over the world gathered in London Tuesday for their first-ever meeting on how to coordinate global action against the growing abuse of drugs ranging from tobacco to narcotics. Thirty countries, including the Soviet Union and the United States, will attend the three-day conference held under the auspices of the World Health Organisation (WHO). The conference aims to raise awareness about the range and severity of drug-related health problems and to initiate international cooperation to reduce social and public health problems related to drug abuse. Drug abuse has become a major threat to world health despite the existence of a series of international protocols and treaties to curb the supplies of addictive substances. Experts attribute this to the relative failure of the international community and national authorities to find effective methods of curtailing the spread of drug abuse. The conference will deal with the consumption of tobacco, alcohol, narcotics and prescription drugs. Ministers will formulate proposals and forward them to the United Nations health bodies for consideration.

Woody Allen, Geldof and Spielberg honoured

LONDON (R) — U.S. filmmaker Steven Spielberg, producer and director of such films as E.T. and Raiders of the Lost Ark, was awarded an Oscar for his filmmaking by the British Academy of Film and Television Arts. Spielberg was given a fellowship of the academy. The award was a boost to the morale of the American producer who has failed to pick up any Hollywood Oscars. Spielberg joins top film makers such as Alfred Hitchcock, David Lean and Sir Richard Attenborough who have also been awarded the fellowship in the past. The British academy also awarded Irish singer Bob Geldof an Oscar for originality in television for the Live Aid Rock Concert, which raised millions of dollars for African famine relief last year. The best film award went to American Woody Allen for the Purple Rose of Cairo, which also won the award for Best Original Screenplay.

Israeli army bans women hitchhikers

TEL AVIV (R) — The Israeli army Monday banned night-time hitchhiking by women soldiers after a 20-year-old West German woman was shot and left for dead on a desert road. The case of Miriam Stucker, from Hamburg, was the latest in a series of attacks on hitchhikers. Since 1979, a dozen Israeli soldiers have been killed while hitchhiking. Stucker, who came to Israel to work on a kibbutz collective settlement, was the first foreign victim. She was unconscious and in critical condition in hospital. The incident aroused much publicity, and the army, responding to parents' anxiety, said it would court-martial any woman soldier who defied its ban. Israel's army has long travelled on its thumb. Newspaper advertisements urge readers to give soldiers a lift.

Benazir Bhutto to start whirlwind Pakistan tour

LAHORE, Pakistan (Agencies) — Opposition leader Benazir Bhutto will return to Pakistan from exile next month "like a storm," a spokesman for her party said Monday.

Pakistan People's Party (PPP) official Makhdoom Khaliq said Ms. Bhutto would address up to 30 public rallies in 45 days after arriving from Europe on April 10.

"Benazir Bhutto will return to the country like a storm," Mr. Khaliq told Reuters.

The daughter of hanged former Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto will arrive in Lahore and address a mass rally there on April 11, said Mr. Khaliq.

Ms. Bhutto, 31, last visited Pakistan in August for the funeral of her brother Shahnawaz, who was found poisoned in his flat in Cannes, southern France, in September.

Marital law authorities put her under house arrest a week later but freed her in November so she could travel to France to attend an inquiry into her brother's death.

President Mohammad Zia Ul Haq, who ended military rule in December, said in an interview with British television Sunday that Ms. Bhutto could return and would not be arrested as long as she obeyed the law.

The decision over Ms. Bhutto's return was made after a two-day meeting of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Central Committee.

In addresses during the meeting, Chairman Atab Sherpoo criticised Gen. Zia for "retaining extensive powers" in his dual position both as president as well as chief of army staff — his main source of strength.

Mr. Ahmad, the party's spokesman, said, "It is important to curtail Zia's powers which he has acquired through repeated amendments of the 1973 constitution." This step is necessary in order to make Pakistan "a federal, parliamentary and democratic country, with provinces allowed to have necessary powers to administer themselves."

Malaysian court dismisses bid to stop state polls

KOTA KINABALU, Malaysia (R) — Police fired teargas to disperse more than 2,000 Muslim opposition supporters who marched on the high court here as it threw out part of a writ seeking to stop elections in Malaysia's mainly Christian-ruled Sabah state.

The court dismissed with costs an injunction filed by independent state Assemblyman Abdul Ghafar Haji Salleh to restrain the Federal Election Commission from fixing a date for elections in the eastern state.

It reserved judgment on another part of the same writ challenging last month's dissolution of the assembly by Chief Minister Datuk Joseph Pairin Kitingan ahead of fresh polls due within 90 days to clear the tense political atmosphere.

Witnesses said police fired teargas canisters after peace talks failed with supporters of the United Sabah National Organisation (USNO) who marched on the court, chanting and stoning cars and shops along the way.

The Muslims regrouped and headed back to the main mosque, draped with banners Sunday attacking the rulers of Sabah.

Thirteen bombs have exploded in the state since last week, wounding four people. Two women have died in arson attacks.

The demonstrators yelled "Allah Akbar," "Long Live USNO" and "Where is Pairin?", the witnesses said.

Mr. Pairin Kitingan flew to the federal capital Kuala Lumpur Sunday for talks with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Mahathir Mohamad on the tension in the state.

The Muslim opposition has stymied efforts by Mr. Pairin's Parti Bersatu Sabah (PBS) to rule the timber-rich North Borneo state since the newly-formed, mainly Christian, Kadazan-tribe based party won elections last April.

Banks, businesses and shops closed as violence flared again in the streets of the city centre.

Scores of riot police with M-16 automatic rifles, batons and shields patrolled the areas around the mosque and court.

Some residents said they had kept their children home from school, although life was near normal in other parts of the city of some 100,000 people on the north west coast of Borneo.

Police said they shot dead one man and arrested two others they caught raiding a house Sunday night.

They said the incident was not connected with the political and religious violence which erupted in the city last Wednesday.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND CHUCK SEIDMAN
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ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1 — Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠ Q107652 ♠ AK742 ♠ 95
The bidding has proceeded:
North West South East
1 ♠ 1 ♥ 1 ♠ 4 ♥
Pass Pass ?

What action do you take?
A. — Despite our probable two defensive tricks in diamonds, we would not sell out to four hearts. However, we don't think it prudent to venture to the five-level in our second suit. From the auction, it sounds very likely that partner has a couple of spades, so our choice is four spades.

Q.2 — As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♠ AKJ1052 ♠ 763 ♠ 8 ♠ AK4
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass

What action do you take?
A. — You have a very good hand, and you almost surely must be safe at the five-level. However, why should you risk a certain game in pursuit of an ethereal slam? Partner must have an aceless wonder because he had the opportunity to make a cheap red-suit cue-bid below game level, but did not do so. Trust him. Pass.

Q.3 — Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠ 85 ♠ Q4 ♠ A10652 ♠ 9764
The bidding has proceeded:
North West South East
1 ♥ Pass 1 NT West
3 ♥ Pass ?

What action do you take?
A. — You have a minimum for your own trump response, but partner's jump rebid has improved your holding considerably. Your hand is worth at least two full tricks for partner, perhaps more if he has some sort of diamond holding. And don't overlook the possibility of a ruffing value in spades. Raise to

four hearts.

Q.4 — Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠ KJ9852 ♠ K73 ♠ KQ85
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass